

Drawing on the colours of the past

By Tara Bradford
Special to The Star

HANA SADIQ Beraudo is an artist in every sense of the word: she writes, paints, designs and sews clothes and makes ceramics. She is also interested in classical music, literature and poetry.

Growing up in Iraq, she demonstrated an early talent for drawing, then studied with well-known Iraqi artists and became a commercially successful painter in her own right. Guided by her mother's talent as a tailor, Hana, at the age of 13, designed and sewed her first dress. She went on to design and make dresses for local brides.

Not satisfied with success as an artist or making clothes, Hana turned to ceramics. After graduating from the University of Baghdad with a degree in French literature, Hana headed to Paris, where her hand-painted silk scarves and tights sold out at French parfumeries.

Her fascination with Arabic history, culture and tradition embarked Hana on a restless 20-year odyssey throughout the Middle East and North Africa, where she studied art of the Ommyyads, Abbassids, Mamluks and other periods of history. Ever curious, she researched origins of antique silver jewelry and hand-made Arabic dresses. "I always wanted to know, why did they use this colour, this design, this weight of jewelry," Hana explained.

Hana began amassing an astonishing collection of silver jewelry, which today numbers more than 500 pieces, each with its own unique history. She also owns more than 200 old Arabic dresses, which she refers to as her "magazine" of traditional design.

Her home in Amman is shared with her husband and three children and strongly suggests the personality of its occupant. Paintings, rare Oriental carpets, books in several languages - and everywhere, and the silver create an ambience like a very relaxed art gallery.

Hana's travels inspired numerous ideas of her own and, influenced by her research in various countries, she began making her own clothes provocative designs based on heritage and tradition, but sparked by the image of today's woman. Encouraged by friends who were always asking her to design clothes for them, two years ago Hana began her own business. "I was feeling pity that the art and richness we had was little lost by the influence of European

cut and styles," Hana remarked. "Women were no longer wearing the traditional dresses, because they are not very convenient for today's lifestyles: driving cars, working at offices, playing sports."

Hana's design industry is booming and she will this year expand her market outside the Arab world to the United States, and then Europe. Her new collection of 85 original designs will be presented at a fashion show at 6:30 p.m. 2 March at the Amman Plaza.

Her book about traditional silver jewelry in the Arabic world will be published soon and she has previously produced a book about Arabic art.

When designing clothes, Hana tries to consider the needs of women here, as well as their traditions and religion. "I care very much about all this," she said. "My clothes are made with a lot of love, not in an industrial atmosphere. When I make my designs, I have to be in the spirit of love and well-being; otherwise, I cannot create art," she explained.

History provides Hana with much of her inspiration. "The region has passed through so many different periods, affected by outside influences," remarked Hana. "I have tried to find lines suitable for today's woman, but with the spirit, beauty and art of the past."

Hana's typical customer varies in age and in income. Most of all, she is "practical and open-minded; a true working woman," she remarked. "But I also have good customers who are what I call 'salon ladies', with very sophisticated tastes, who are always searching for something new."

"These women are comfortable, with lots of time to spend, having tea parties, bridge parties, a gathering nearly every day," Hana added.

"They like variation and do not like repetition. These women are accustomed to going to Europe for their clothes, so it is now challenge to convince them this Arabic style is also nice."

Hana said her customers tend to buy most of their wardrobe in anticipation of Ramadan. "This is not only a religious month, but a time of family gatherings, parties and relaxing, when we all

create colours, which inspired eclectic colour combinations in her fashions. "When you research the processes used by our ancestors and the tremendous efforts required to achieve a certain shade of blue, for instance, it really makes one appreciate subtle shadings and variations. For instance, the colour red was discovered in Palestine. They boiled dried insects to obtain a bright clear colour," Hana noted.

"My designs are inspired by the country, which is full of sand, sun and water, touched by very little green," Hana said. "Because our eyes aren't used to green, my collection shows very little of that colour. Instead, my designs tend to have a great deal of turquoise, which was the preferred colour of the ancient Sumerians. It is also my personal favourite," she added.

In contrast, Hana's designs also prominently feature black. "Black is part of our history; Bedouin women have always worn black. There have been so many catastrophic periods in the Middle East. I think an underlying current of sadness in the region is reflected in the habit of wearing black."

Hana is most comfortable in working with natural fibers, such as cotton, linen and silk. But she doesn't always have an easy time finding them, since synthetics are more widely used in Europe and the United States because of their wash-and-wear ease and versatility. "I use all natural fabrics; unfortunately these materials are dying out," Hana noted. "Iraq, for example, used to cover half the world with their cottons and silks; while Egypt, Morocco and the Sudan enjoyed similar reputations for their natural materials. Now I am trying to encourage the production of more natural fabrics in the Arab World," remarked Hana. "The synthetic

things do not suit hot countries like ours. They block the cool air."

Hana's clothes ranging in price from JD 20 to 500 are produced locally, using Jordanian workers. She has recently opened her own factory containing 30 sewing machines. Her clothes look hand-made, because "we try to hide the industrial part of the manufacturing process from the viewer's eye," Hana laughed. The production of Hana's clothing line is overseen by her husband, Guy Beraudo.

I began my business in Jordan because of its "mixture of cultures: Jordanians, Palestinians, with all their art and traditional dresses, as well as Egyptian, Syrian and Iraqi influences all around." "It was easy to start in Jordan, because it is a small country, so people heard about me quickly," Hana remarked.

In five years, Hana envisions that she will have successfully "hit" American and European markets. "This is really my biggest challenge," she noted. "But even before that, my wish is to see my designs or any other Arabic inspired designers' clothes on more Arab women."

Hana has worn either her own designs or some "old traditional dresses" for the past 20 years. "I think it is good for a woman to work, but she should not forget her basic nature as a wife and mother," Hana remarked. "I think these clothes reflect that need for femininity. I don't mean that a woman can't wear trousers; she can, and still be very feminine."

Hana believes accessories are so important to the look of her clothing that she leaves room at the end of dress or jacket sleeves to show off bracelets. She has also been known to design an outfit specifically to match a certain accessory.

Hana's creativity comes in bursts of enthusiasm. She is often awakened in the middle of the night by bubbling ideas. "Sometimes I have so many ideas, the flow is constant," she said. Her inspiration for artistic endeavours is most prolific after a vacation, although, Hana laments, she sometimes has no ideas at all. "But once I start, I cannot stop... just a steady stream of ideas for clothes, for jewelry, for everything around."

"Sometimes I think I have enough to live 60 or 70 years," Hana said. "I need another lifetime to finish what I have to do."



Hana Beraudo

use our best clothes and really enjoy our life," she commented.

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of Hana's work is "to be practical according to today's lifestyle," she explained. "But little by little, the ideas are coming. Also, Arab women can be very demanding. Historically, they have always asked for very complicated designs, rich in decoration. Now the Arab woman is satisfying herself with simple European lines; but in her heart, she has a weak spot for the strong designs of the past. In the Abbassid time or the Omayyad period, each tribe had its own tailor. Some embroiders worked only for one family, in fierce competition with others over who could produce the most elaborate and unusual designs."

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King satisfied with outcome of talks in France, starts official visit to the UK

AMMAN (Pera) - His Majesty King Hussein arrived in London Wednesday for talks with British senior officials on the recent developments in the world arena, and the peace process in the Middle East.

King Hussein arrived in the United Kingdom from France where he reviewed with French President Francois Mitterrand bilateral relations between Jordan and France, latest world changes and issues of mutual concern.

King Hussein and President Mitterrand discussed the peace process in the Middle East, and means for arriving at a peaceful and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

King Hussein called for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and said that the influx of Soviet

Jewish immigrants to Israel constitutes a new complication to the peace process in the region, because of Israel's plans to settle the new immigrants in the occupied Arab territories.

In a meeting with Arab ambassadors to Paris, King Hussein expressed appreciation for the French and European stands on Arab causes.

King Hussein told the Arab ambassadors that Jordan is working towards convening an Arab summit which should be well-prepared for and different from its predecessors so that for any decisions taken in it to be effective.

Describing the French president as a wise leader and a man of principles, King Hussein said he was satisfied with the outcome of his meeting with Mr



Mitterrand.

In remarks to the press after leaving the Elysee Palace, King Hussein said that he had no new proposals for achieving peace in the Middle East, and that "we support the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) in all its positions.

King Hussein said that Jordan will extend all possible help to the PLO, whose stands he described as positive and constructive.

On the record

● Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mr. Thabael Al Taher, and Mr. Mohammad Said, general secretary of the Electricity Authority, will soon visit Cairo to discuss Jordanian-Egyptian co-operation in the field of energy.

● Minister of Energy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Mr. Hamid Nae Al Uveili will arrive in Jordan before the end of this month to discuss means of strengthening co-operation between Jordan and the UAE in the field of energy.

● Prime Minister Mubarak Haddad Tuesday met the Secretary General of Amnesty International, Mr. Martin, and reviewed with him the recent developments in the Kingdom.

Mr. Haddad confirms that there are no political prisoners in Jordan, and said that any contradictory claims were not true. (See related story P.5)

Focus on Parliament

By Ahmad Al Husheini

● The government has accused some deputies of trying to embarrass the House by encouraging public at private sectors employees to stage strikes.

The accusations were made during the closed session of the House which took place on Tuesday, 27 February, and was mostly devoted to discussing the rules that guide the deputies' relation with the government.

The government stressed the importance of non-interference by any of the constitutional bodies in the work of others, accused deputies Fares Al Nabulsi and Fakhri Kassar of encouraging Petra 90 employees to stage a strike, and Deputy Ahmad Al Abbadi of inciting the employees of Al Arab Telecom to stage a strike days before the convening of the Arab Co-operation Council's (ACC) summit which was held in Amman on 24 February.

● The Finance Committee has recommended that the House form a committee on Public Debts, and another to investigate corruption.

● Members of the national bloc have confirmed that the group will soon be divided into two blocs, one comprising 13 deputies, and the other including only members

Aggressive sale drive needed to promote tourism

THE VALUE of tourism as a major industry in Jordan is not yet fully realised, says Mr Richard Henry, a tourist consultant who has worked with Royal Jordanian (RJ) for the past 14 months. Properly developed, he says, tourism can bring in all the benefits of any significant export such as the much needed foreign exchange and employment opportunities. Internal tourism not only promotes the image of Jordan abroad but increases local awareness of the environment at home.

Eleven studies have been carried out on Jordan's tourism possibilities and all agree that Jordan offers a unique tourism product that is enhanced by a welcoming friendly people and stable security. Tourism has already brought 16 per cent of the foreign currency to the country without much active promotion. Up to the present day, Jordanian tour operators and travel agents and tourism professionals in the private sector have been the engineers of whatever productive tourism exists. But according to Mr. Henry, the private sector cannot carry the burden alone because their main interest lies in "developing tours to destinations that will sell" and not in developing those destinations. Ultimately the responsibility of marketing Jordan as a tourism destination must lie with the Ministry of Tourism.

Mr Henry, who since his retirement in 1980 from the United States Travel Service has had consultancy assignments in Mexico, the Philippines, Chile, Spain, Gabon, Haiti, Zaire, Egypt, China, India and other countries, has put forward several ideas to the Ministry of Tourism and Royal Jordanian for expansion of the industry. Mr Henry believes that "control growth tourism" growing in proportion to new hotel rooms in Petra and Aqaba, which are first required, would ultimately be more profitable in Jordan's unique archaeological sites, than the encouragement of mass tourism. He enumerated senior citizen tours, birdwatching, hiking, archaeological and religious tours as possibilities in a programme of selective tourism that could be developed in preference to the cheap charter, which he maintains are taking away valuable hotel space in south Jordan from higher grade tourists. Jordan is presently under ex-



Mr Richard Henry

posed as a tourist destination in Europe and the United States, where Mr Henry believes a "potentiality great market exists". It is currently equated with troubled areas in the Middle East, a poor and inaccurate picture that could be remedied by travel writers experiencing Jordan first hand, by the training of Royal Jordanian staff abroad in promoting the Kingdom and by the distribution of promotional literature in foreign offices. This would require an aggressive sales drive best initiated by a

co-ordinating authority, ie Ministry of Tourism which is as yet severely restrained by a small budget.

Travel incentive (where major companies offer travel as a reward to high achievers in their employ) is one of the world's fastest growing forms of tourism. To tap this source, Mr Henry recommended that Royal Jordanian through its subsidiary Royal Tours, take out pavilions at world fairs to advertise Jordan to scouting companies. (at the last minute Royal Tours pulled out of this scheme citing expenses as being prohibitive). Another recommendation proposed by Mr Henry as tourist alternatives, was to attract international conventions to Jordan, a market currently successfully exploited by the Far East to the benefit of its hotels.

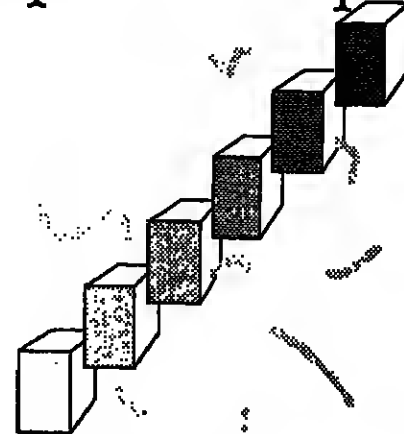
Such conventions would fill hotels in all seasons and studies have shown that delegates spend three times as much as the average tourist. These conventions could be realised through national associations in co-operation with their international counterparts. An international calendar and association list

is available in Brussels. This recommendation was also met with a negative response by the Director General of the Ministry of Tourism.

Jordan's present tourism budget of \$ 200,000, when compared with other promotional budgets in the area (Morocco \$7.8 million, Tunisia \$9.1 million, Cyprus \$3.3 million) reflects a lack of faith in the importance and potential earning power of this industry. (Suggestions of allocating part of the 10 per cent hotel and restaurant taxes or the airport departure tax to the promotion of tourism have met with no response).

A "consortium" or tourism marketing group is currently awaiting legalisation under the umbrella of the Ministry of Tourism this marketing group will fund some promotional materials on Jordan, but Mr Henry believes that more is needed in the form of realistic government funding. Jordan is nearer to world markets than the Far East which is presently enjoying a booming tourist industry but nothing short of a sales blitz and proper government support can put Jordan well and truly on the tourist map.

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TIMES 90

FRIDAY

FAMILY
LUNCHEON
BUFFET

AT THE
COFFEE SHOP
FRIDAY & SUNDAY

J.O. 7.500 ADULTS

CHILDREN UNDER EIGHT FREE

SATURDAY

PRIME RIB OF BEEF
NIGHT AT THE
COFFEE SHOP

PRIME RIB OF BEEF
YORKSHIRE PUDDING
BAKED POTATO, VEGETABLES
SELECTION OF SWEETS

J.D. 7.500

TUESDAY

CONTINENTAL
BUFFET

A SELECTION
OF YOUR FAVORITE
HOT AND COLD
CONTINENTAL DISHERS.
J.D. 7.500

SUNDAY

JUMBO SHRIMP
NIGHT AT THE
ANDALUSIA

SEA FOOD COCKTAIL,
SHRIMPS: GRILLED,
DEEP FRIED, OR PROVENCAL
SELECTION OF SWEETS

J.D. 12.000

WEDNESDAY

INDIAN BUFFET
NIGHT AT THE
COFFEE SHOP

SELECTION OF CURRIES, BEEF, LAMB, CHICKEN,
SHRIMPS AND VEGETABLES CURRY - NAAN BREAD
SELECTION OF SWEETS

J.D. 7.500

MONDAY

SPANISH PAELLA
NIGHT AT THE
COFFEE SHOP

SEA FOOD COCKTAIL
TRADITIONAL PAELLA
(RICE, SHRIMPS, HAMMOUR,
CALAMARI, ETC.)
SELECTION OF SWEETS

J.D. 7.500

THURSDAY

SEA FOOD
NIGHT AT THE
ANDALUSIA

SET MENU OR AL A CANTO
SELECTION OF SWEETS
J.D. 12.000

Ministry of Social Development Insufficient budget hinders fulfilment of responsibilities

AMMAN (Star) - In order for the Ministry of Social Development to efficiently shoulder its responsibilities towards the society, it will need three to five times the budget allocated to it.

In an interview with The Star, Minister of Social Development Mr Abdul Majid Al-Shriddeh, said that "the Ministry's budget of JD 3.3 million does not suffice to cover the expenses necessary to fulfil one part of its duties."

The Ministry is responsible for providing aid and education to the handicapped, the disabled, destitute children and women in rural areas, in addition to preventing juvenile delinquency and rehabilitating delinquent adolescents.

Mr Shriddeh said that Jordan has 130,000 handicapped citizens of whom only 2 per cent are being cared for by the 57 governmental and voluntary institutions for the care of the handicapped.

"Providing a handicapped person with the care and training he or she needs costs around JD 700-1500, and the Ministry cannot thoroughly solve the problem alone," said Mr Shriddeh.

He said that all citizens, private companies and institutions have to join forces and make financial contributions in order to help this sector of the communi-

ty and elevate their suffering.

In addition to providing them with financial help and training, the Ministry is also working towards guaranteeing the handicapped their constitutional rights.

Mr Shriddeh said that a draft law entitling the handicapped to employment opportunities in the public and private sectors has taken effect since 1 January 1990.

The Ministry also has three centres for housing the elderly and disabled in which there are 40-50 persons. It also covers the costs of other persons at private centres, and each case costs JD 40-50.

Through its 16 directorates all over the Kingdom, the Ministry works to keep the integration of families, and provides suitable environment for destitute children who have no families to



Mr Abdul Majid Al-Shriddeh

properly upbringing them. Mr Shriddeh said the Ministry gives special attention to this part of its responsibilities due to the negative consequences of disintegrated families on the society. "If the children are left alone with no one to care for them, it is highly possible that children will grow into delinquents," Mr Shriddeh said.

In such cases, the children are placed in rehabilitation centres

where they are put under the custody of specialised instructors and social workers who try to put them on the right path again, said Mr Shriddeh.

There are about 600 people at the Ministry's rehabilitation centres and according to Mr Shriddeh the number increases in times of economic crises.

Another important area of work for the Ministry is social development projects. Such projects are mainly carried out in rural areas where the Ministry is directing its efforts towards women. Instead of just extending financial aid to poor families, Mr Shriddeh said that the Ministry is now trying to equip village and poor women with skills that will enable them to earn a living while still working in their homes.

A new Development and Employment Fund will become operational in the coming few months and will embark on small and medium-size projects that are aimed at training women to do works such as weaving and sewing which provides them

with money and do not require them to work outside their homes.

Currently, the Ministry provides financial help to 11,000 Jordanian families living under the poverty line and Mr Shriddeh hopes that the number will decrease when more women start contributing to the family income by benefiting from the work opportunities that will be provided by the new Fund.

Mr Shriddeh said that the government has this year increased the budget of the National Aid Fund, which operates under the umbrella of the Ministry but has its independent budget, from JD 2.5 to JD 5 million in order to help poor Jordanian families whose living conditions have worsened due to price increases and the hard economic situation.

Even though Mr Shriddeh believed that the poverty line, currently set at JD 40, is unrealistic and should at least be JD 80, he said that the Ministry can only increase its aid by JD 5-10 only.

Mr Shriddeh said that the government is giving priority to the issues of poverty and unemployment and that "will definitely be effective in maintaining the problem towards eventually solving it."

Poverty pockets in Jordan: a case study

AMMAN (Star) - A study on "The Pockets of Poverty in Jordan," which was recently released by the Ministry of Social Development stated that an ordinary Jordanian family of 7.2 members needed a monthly income of JD 40,500 to cover its strategic food needs and JD 89,000 to cover its strategic food and non-food needs. Those were the lines of poverty as indicated by the study.

An estimated poverty line of JD 40,500, or JD 89,000, is a national average drawn by a 22,000-family sample survey. Out of a total of 22,000 families, 15,000 families were beneficiaries of aid funds and welfare centres.

The study showed that the poverty lines (strategic food; and strategic food and non-food) for a 6.94-member family in Amman were JD 39,100 and JD 47,300 and JD 78.4 per month. In Ma'an the two lines were JD 45,300 and JD 84,000.

However, the family sizes in Karak and Ma'an were 8.42 members and 7.72 members respectively. In Irbid the lines for a 7.28-member family were JD 60,600 and JD 80,700 month. The lines for 7.10-member family in Zerga were JD 40,200 and JD 79,100.

According to the study, a poor family (which could not afford strategic food needs) earned an average monthly income of JD 36,260. Another poor family (which could not afford strategic non-food needs, i.e., clothing, shelter, etc.) earned an average monthly income of JD 76,820. The study estimated that a non-poor family made JD 207,510 on



How far beyond the poverty line?

average in monthly income. The general average monthly income for the poor and non-poor was JD 182,450.

The study indicated that poor families (which could not afford strategic food needs) gave the following reasons for their state of poverty (per cent out of 100 per cent): 1) Unavailability of job opportunities 29.4 per cent.

2) Handicap or old age 17 per cent.

3) Death of the head of the family 9.2 per cent.

4) Continuous illness of the head of the family, 6.9 per cent.

5) Large family size 26.1 per cent.

6) Expensive medical treatment 0.9 per cent.

7) Drug addiction 0.5 per cent.

8) Lack of responsibility on the part of the head of the family 2.8 per cent.

9) Other reasons 7.3 per cent.

As for the other category of

poor families, (those who could not afford strategic non-food needs), the following reasons were given:

1- Lack of job opportunities, 29.7 per cent.

2- Handicaps or old age 14.8 per cent.

3- Death of the head of the family 10.6 per cent.

4- Continuous illness of the head of the family, 5.2 per cent.

5- Large family size 27.5 per cent.

6- Expensive medical treatment 1.3 per cent.

7- Drug addiction, zero.

8- Lack of responsibility on the part of the head of the family, 1.8 per cent.

9- Other reasons: 9.2 per cent.

As for the means that should be employed to overcome poverty, the study said that 43.4 per cent of the families surveyed suggested providing more work opportunities, 17.5 per cent demanded salary increases, 20.5 per cent called for extending financial aid, 2.9 per cent said that inflation should be decreased, and 2.4 per cent suggested that loans be paid off.

The study also made some estimates on the amount of funds needed to fill the gap of poverty. It estimated that JD 25.75 million per year (1.37 per cent of GNP) is needed to fill the gap. JD 8 million is needed in the capital Amman and JD 7.2 million in Irbid.

In deriving the above estimates, the study used mid-1988 price levels in order to determine how much was needed to bring those under the poverty line above the line.

Amnesty International welcomes government's commitment to end martial laws

By Tara Bradford
Special to The Star

AMMAN - Amnesty International (AI) has welcomed the government's commitment to withdraw martial law and related defense provisions, but still called for their complete abolition.

In an interview with The Star, Ian Martin, secretary-general of the London-based human rights group, also urged prompt access by family members and lawyers to any detainees in custody and investigations of allegations of ill-treatment of prisoners.

Martin, accompanied by Claudio Cordone, an AI researcher for the Middle East region, said in meetings with government officials and private organisations, that Amnesty has pressed for the elimination of executions in Jordan. (A punishment that the government uses against people convicted of criminal but not political charges.)

"Our particular concern is that people have been sentenced to death under martial law, with no judicial appeal," Martin noted.

"International law says there should always be a right of appeal. So again, we're hoping in the new atmosphere in Jordan that there may be even more willingness not to proceed with executions."

Martin said Amnesty has documentation of at least two cases of political prisoners currently

being tried under a martial law court. "Obviously, this concerns us and we hope that whatever legislation introduced at the time of martial law and defense regulations will not permit prolonged detention without trial, or trial proceedings which aren't fully fair," Martin added.

"Our past concerns in Jordan have been allegations of torture and ill-treatment, particularly in the intelligence department," Martin noted.

"Looking to the future, we hope that people should not be held for long periods of time in detention, without any access to a lawyer, or family members, because, in our experience, incommunicado detention anywhere in the world is almost always accompanied by torture."

Martin said Amnesty had asked the Jordanian government in 1986 for permission to visit the Kingdom, "but ultimately the government didn't agree." "This was not a case where there was no responsiveness at all; we did receive replies to communications concerning some particular matters. But when we renewed our request after the November elections, our visit was approved," he remarked.

Martin said Amnesty has been working to secure the release of some Jordanians held in Syrian prisons. He said AI met with Syrian government officials last fall, but so far, no apparent changes in the prisoners' status



Ian Martin

have resulted.

"We have also been pressing the government here to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Torture," Martin said. "So far, the government has had the matter under review. It seems now is a good time to seek ratification and we are urging the Jordanian government will give the human rights treaty a high priority in its actions," he explained.

Martin said he and Cordone have met with a preparatory committee seeking to establish a local chapter of Amnesty. "Of course, we have not yet been able to obtain legal registration, but it is hoped that the Ministry

of Interior would approve our application when received." Martin said he is encouraged by the responsiveness of the present government and is optimistic that an Amnesty chapter will ultimately be approved. In the Arab World, Tunisia and Algeria were the first countries to set up licensed local chapters, he added.

Martin said human rights abuses in Jordan have recently been "very much reduced." "In the past, we worked to secure the release of prisoners of conscience here; as far as we know, all have now been released," he commented. "But our position regarding the political prisoners remaining is that in those cases where individuals did not receive fully fair trials, the government is required by international law in grant appeals and so these cases should be reviewed."

"We welcome the government's commitment to withdraw martial law and related defense provisions, but the question is not yet clear whether the government will propose to impose other specific powers," Martin said.

"We hope in the future that all detainees are subject to judicial review, and even if people do commit violent crimes for political reasons, they are dealt with by the trial process."

Martin said Amnesty continues to be concerned by deliberate Israeli killings of Palesti-

ans in the occupied territories and torture of prisoners, held in jails for long periods of time, often without even being charged with a crime. "We are pressing the Israeli government for an investigation into these violations of basic human rights," Martin said.

Since its inception nearly 30 years ago, Amnesty has successfully faced numerous challenges.

"What has already been achieved, not just by us, but by others in the human rights movement, is to bring about a situation where there are strong international concerns about human rights violations and where governments feel there will be consequences for their international image," Martin remarked. "This is the first step, but we have a very long way to go before many governments, including some in this region, are fully responsive to those concerns. It is our challenge to maintain that pressure, to give as much international support as possible to people who are suffering," he added.

During their week-long visit to Jordan, Martin and Cordone have met with government officials, and various groups including the Public Freedoms Committee, representing members of 12 professional organisations. The committee has asked the government to grant amnesty to 55 political prisoners and detainees it says are still incarcerated.

Tourism Department goes on with its extension plans

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

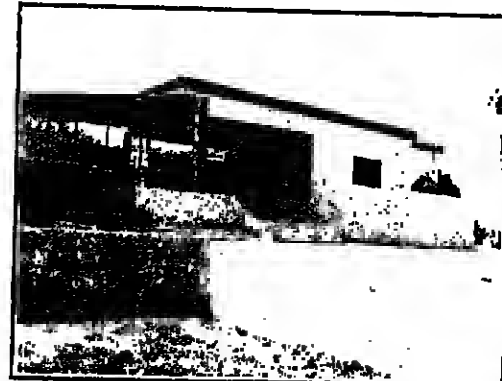
THE TOURIST Investment Department (TID) of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) is going ahead with its extensions to the Petra Resthouse as a rise in Jordan's tourist numbers brings it record profits.

A contract for the addition of 54 new rooms and a range of improvements to the existing resthouse was awarded recently to Tukan Contracting and Trading company, and work should be completed by September 1991.

Extensions to the Petra Forum Hotel are already underway. The local Bureau of Alia was awarded a contract in July last year to add 67 rooms, a Royal Suite, restaurant, banquet hall/conference room and small health club to the hotel which is heavily booked throughout the winter season.

TID Director General Ismail Hassan says the Petra Forum extensions should be ready for a soft opening in mid-1991. The two Petra hotels are among the most successful of the TID's investments and, along with the Aqaba Hotel, the Amra in Amman and the Kerak and Azraq resthouses are the main source of the record JD 1.7 million in profits it posted in 1989.

Hassan says the other resthouses belonging to the TID, which include Dibbin, Zai, Istafela and the Dead Sea are run mainly to serve internal tourism. They do most of their business in the summer months and he is happy if they break even or, like the Dead Sea resthouse, bring



Tourist Investment Department's Istafela Resthouse which is mainly run to serve internal tourism.

just a small profit. And although they are not big money earners, these resthouses have all undergone renovations and a general smartening up since 1989 when Hassan joined the department after a successful career in hotel management in a number of leading Gulf hotels.

He has worked to place all TID hotels and resthouses on a professional basis, revising price structures, setting budgets, improving staff training and smartening up: both buildings and their surroundings. A 10-member team is now responsible for maintenance and cleaning at the resthouses.

Staff training has taken a high priority. According to Hassan staff cannot be expected to do their job well if they do not know what is required of them. Hotel industry specialists have now been brought in to give courses for housekeepers, food

and beverage staff, controllers and so on. The TID has also established its own tailoring shop to make uniforms as part of a continuing effort to boost staff identification with their jobs and with TID. Marketing has also been boosted by a specialist team and more systematic advertising on television and in the press.

While the focus with most of the resthouses will remain on domestic tourism, Hassan would like to take advantage of the continuing expansion in the numbers of foreign visitors wanting to visit southern Jordan.

The TID has plans for major expansions at Aqaba where, says Hassan, the site of the Aqaba Hotel offers great possibilities. He says at present the 33-dunum site has only 99 bungalows which represents a poor investment when two-four dunuma per 100 rooms is the accepted international standard for resort hotels. Hassan would like to see the site developed but in keeping with the character of Aqaba. He says a 300-room hotel could be built within three years of a firm decision on redevelopment. He just hopes it can be done in time to help absorb Jordan's current boom in tourist numbers.

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By Naseem Abdillah
Special to The Star

WASHINGTON - While Americans seem preoccupied more and more with the spectre of Japan as the next enemy No. 1 of the United States, they are being treated to an increasing diet of Japanese culture. Art shows and festivals highlighting the culture and civilisation of Japan are being held with a greater frequency than before, and Japanese businesses are being encouraged to play the role of cultural ambassadors in an environment fraught with suspicion of everything Japanese.

This increased focus on Japan has also indirectly drawn attention to Buddhism, the faith practised by the majority of the Japanese. Does the secret of Japanese success lie, it is being asked, in their particular frame of mind achieved by the practice of Buddhism? The answers are many and varied and anyway none too accurate.

Amid this mixed bag of soul-searching, jingoism and culture analysis, the prestigious Smithsonian Institution in Washington has been showing an important collection of Buddhist items entitled "The Noble Path: Buddhist Art of South Asia and Tibet." The show features 103 Buddhist sculptures, painting and ritual objects ranging in date from the first century BC to the 18th century.

The institution's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery has had a series of successful shows over the past year, from the glorious Timur collection to the photographs from India and Afghanistan, "The Noble Path" is the gallery's major Asian exhibition on a non-Islamic theme.

The visitor to the show is reminded that Buddhism is anything but a Japanese product; the faith was founded in India by Prince Siddhartha, and later, Shakyamuni (Sage of the Shakyas) in the sixth century BC. After his own enlightenment through meditation, Shakyamuni became known as the Buddha, the Awakened or Enlightened One. He devised a code of actions and thoughts and, through 40 years of teaching, attracted followers throughout the Ganges valley of northern India.

The exhibition explores the aesthetic, historical and philosophical significance of Buddhism, together with the changing imagery from its origins in India, through its early development and evolution to its spread into other parts of South Asia and Tibet. China and Japan followed much later.

Images of deities in the exhibition range from Indian nature spirits, which were worshipped long before the birth of Siddhartha, to such early emblems of the Buddha as the wheel or the lotus. The wheel came to represent the endless turning of Buddhist laws; the lotus flower, often growing in muddy water, is an ancient symbol of purity.

Later images include the benign, peaceful Buddha, bejeweled bodhisattvas (spiritual



A fine example of Buddhist-oriented art: Conch shell with silver, coral, jade and turquoise from 18th century Tibet

Amid Japan-bashing, a show of shows on Buddhism

A major exhibition of ancient Buddhist art in Washington comes at a time of Japan-bashing, and renewed interest in anything which makes the Japanese tick, including their faith.

guides), and the blood-drinking demons adapted into Buddhism from the indigenous Himalayan religion.

Another fascinating feature of the show is two miniature stupas, hemispherical mounds the larger versions of which were used to shelter the cremated remains of important people and thus became important points of pilgrimage for people. Portions of the Buddha's own ashes, for example, were placed under such mounds after his death.

The show also includes a cream sandstone sculpture of two female nature spirits from the gateway to the great Stupa at Sanchi, one of the most important Buddhist monuments in India.

While the Buddha himself discouraged the worship of images by his followers, interpretations of his teachings had so changed by the first century AD, 50 years after his death, that images of the Buddha appeared in quantity.

A red sandstone head on display, made in India between 150 and 200 AD, must be among the earliest images of the Buddha. The distinguishing marks, lohanas, that identify the Buddha in art and the hand gestures, mudras, that convey specific meanings are also shown in a variety of sculpture.

Buddhism practiced today in Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand and Cambodia adheres to the earliest tenets of Buddhist philosophy in which the goal is individual salvation or enlightenment, or

Theravada.

Those closest to the goal of enlightenment are termed arhats, worthy ones. The exhibition's richly painted "Arhat With Attendants", made in central Tibet in the 14th century, presents an outstanding image.

Another branch of Buddhism, known as Mahayana (Greater Vehicle), developed later with significant differences. Central



Japanese elegance and tradition, a reflection of a deep-rooted culture

to this more elaborate interpretation is the concept of the bodhisattva, a being who has renounced his own personal salvation to help all other beings

attain enlightenment. An outstanding example in the exhibition is an 11th-century India sculpture of Maitreya, the bodhisattava who will become the next Buddha on earth.

By the third century BC, Buddhism had spread widely through north India and as far as Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia. In the first century AD, missionaries and traders carried Mahayana Buddhist teachings to East Asia along the Silk Road.

On view, illustrating one of the many stylistic variations seen in Buddhist art as it spread through South Asia, is a ninth-century bronze seated Buddha whose slender physique and facial features are typical of Sri Lankan works.

Nearly half the works in "The Noble Path" are from Nepal and Tibet. In Tibet Buddhism had taken hold by the seventh century and adapted itself to a population long preoccupied with deities thought to control the extraordinarily harsh climate and terrain. In these mountain kingdoms, a new form of Buddhism evolved, known as Vajrayana, or The Vehicle of the Thunderbolt.

Rich symbolism developed to express the unity underlying those seemingly opposite qualities found in the physical world. The union of the male and the female became a metaphor for the goal of the Buddhist devotee: that state by which all sense of personal individuality was lost and the worshiper felt united with the divine. Complex images

of death were emphasised to enforce the transitory nature of physical existence.

Such symbolism can be seen in many examples in the exhibition. Samvara and Vajrayana Union, a Nepalese painting of about 1450, shows Samvara, one of the most important deities of Vajrayana Buddhism, in union with his female counterpart.

Among other highlights of art from Tibet is a collection of 18 ritual objects used in ceremonies of Vajrayana Buddhism. The objects, which include a crown, a cup in the shape of a skull and a jeweled conch shell used as a trumpet, are shown in an adjacent 19th-century painting that would be hung in a temple. Also on view is a collection of Buddhist manuscripts from Tibetan monasteries and temples.

"The Noble Path" initiates a series of occasional exhibitions at the Sackler Gallery to celebrate the wealth and variety of Asian art in American museums. The exhibition draws on one of the most comprehensive holdings of the arts of the Asia-subcontinent and the comparable Nepal and Tibet collections belonging to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. They were assembled by Prince Aditya Pal, the museum's curator of Indian and Southeast Asian art. Objects were selected for this exhibition by John Beach, director of the Sackler Gallery.

8 MARCH

Physical punishment

Beating is not discipline

By Najal Dajani
Special to The Star

LOUISE, A teacher who works in one of the government schools in Amman can still recall an incident that took place in her life over 20 years ago, when she herself was a student. During an art class, she was looking forward to colouring with crayons, especially the black, which she found fascinating. She was so involved in what she was doing she hardly noticed that not only had she completely covered her paper with black but her desk was now almost the same colour. The desk looked so shiny and lovely she decided to finish colouring it. Her artistic talent not only got her a low grade, but also 20 lashes on her palms with a wooden stick. "To this day I can vividly recall the mixture of colours on my palms; black from the crayons and red from the stick."

In its booklet entitled "A Guide to School Discipline", the Ministry of Education states that "any form of physical punishment should be avoided when disciplining children". This booklet, which is issued every two years by the Department of Student Affairs puts down the view of the Ministry on how discipline could be applied in schools. The booklet suggests many preventive and punitive measures which aim at avoiding having to resort to any other disciplinary measures such as corporal punishment, and is to be used by the government and private schools in the Kingdom.

The Northern Um Summaq Secondary School for girls is a government-funded school which has not more than 220 students. All classes are normally held in small one-room buildings where the girls sit close to the heater wrapped up in their winter coats concentrating on what the teacher has to say. However, the upper grades are soon to be transferred to a new, recently completed, bigger building leaving the huts to be occupied by the lower grade and a new school tuckshop.

"Because we are such a small school, it is easier to control the students," says Mrs Muna Zuhaimat, guidance officer at the school. "Since we know who

each student is," she says, "the school tends to be more lenient with the students than, may be other schools." The school gives warnings for infractions such as leaving the school premises and being involved in fights, and according to Mrs Zuhaimat, they have never had any major problems and certainly never had to expel a student.

Mrs Zuhaimat lectures the girls on manners, cleanliness and education methods. She finds the lower grades harder to control since they are allowed more freedom. "When punishing students we may resort to such methods as telling them off in front of their peers or depriving them of a certain privilege, but we rarely have to resort to physical punishment," she says.

The school believes that involving parents is sometimes the key to solving a problem. "A while back we had a case where a girl was constantly uncooperative and very rude. After a meeting with her parents it turned out that the problem was from home," Mrs Zuhaimat says.

The Abdul Hamid Sharaf School is a private school, which aims at teaching the students self-discipline. In order to avoid having to punish the students, the school makes sure they are aware of their limits by issuing the students with what the school calls the code of behaviour (five typed pages listing the rules and regulations of the school and the punishment for breaking them).

Dr Sue Dahdah, director of the school feels that as children grow older they should be treated less firmly. "If you are holding some sand in your hand and you hold it very tightly in your fist, it will start seeping out between your fingers, this will happen if you are too firm with the children. Give the older ones more freedom or you will lose them," she says.

Brother Noel Sakr, principal of the College de la Salle (Les Freres), another privately-funded school, applies a method when judging between students which he believes produces good results. If a group of older students got into a fight, he asks each one to write down his version of what actually took place, "while writing the students start judging

themselves." Brother Noel's job would then include an attempt at reconciling between the boys.

The International Community School, one of the foreign schools in the Kingdom, places emphasis on the independence of learning. The child has a say in what he or she wants to learn and "after all," says Mr David Myroie, headteacher at the school, "that's what education is all about."

Mr Myroie feels that little disciplining is required at the school. "The teachers and students have mutual respect for each other, the teachers try to reason with the children but sometimes, however, shouting is necessary," he says.

The school aims at making sure the children learn from their mistakes. "Punishment," Mr Myroie says "should always be positive, it should not only be a deprivation of something, punishment should also fit the crime, if for example a student had committed a crime against the environ-

ment, then as punishment he might be made to pick up paper." From the professional point of view, Mrs Fama Reid, a psychologist, believes that maintaining discipline in the class depends on the quality of the teacher and whether he or she is capable of showing enough love and fairness in his or her manner towards the students.

Having had experience in dealing with children, Mrs Reid is aware of the influence the teacher has on the children. "Children imitate their teachers. After all, half of the child's early life is spent at school then who if not the teacher would he imitate."

Studies have proven that "aggression breeds aggression". If the teacher is aggressive or violent in his or her behaviour towards a child, in turn that child may vent his feelings on a weaker classmate. Mrs Reid, who works as a consultant at the Al Psychological and Educational Consultations says that "if we

don't want aggression to continue, we should put a stop to it ourselves."

However, she says that aggression should not be confused with anger. Anger, like happiness, is a normal feeling and certain situations require us to get angry. Mrs Reid firmly believes in the fact that children should be allowed to express their anger, and in her opinion, the best way to achieve this is through verbalisation. "Explaining to the child that the wrong lies not in him, but in what he is doing, helps the child to understand that it is his behaviour that is at fault."

If the teacher treats all the children equally and in a gentle but firm manner and if he or she is up to the task then there should be no problems. Mrs Reid is convinced that no situation should require the need for physical punishment. "Resorting to such a primitive act," she says, "proves the inability of the adult to cope with the situation and the insecurity and lack of authority that he or she suffers from."

"Petrascapes" on show in Amsterdam

Special to The Star

PETRA HAS been an unending source of inspiration to the scores of artists, writers and scholars who have visited the ancient Nabatean capital since it was re-discovered by the Anglo-Swiss explorer Burckhardt in 1812. The latest in the long line of these people is the Dutch artist Geri Bierenbroodspot whose "Petrascapes" are now on show at the Singer Memorial Foundation Museum, Amsterdam.

A well known artist whose works are much sought after in her native Holland, Bierenbroodspot spent several weeks in the spring and autumn of last year living and working in Petra. For her, Petra was like "stepping into metaphors of archaeology, architecture and mythology." With all her equipment packed into a small green backpack, Bierenbroodspot trekked all over Petra "Hunting out," as Lys Marigold writes in the accompa-



Geri Bierenbroodspot

nying catalogue, "her visual prey." Bierenbroodspot's initial drawings were precise renderings of the ruins she surveyed but then at a certain point, she deliberately turns classic brushstrokes into irreverent chaos, exploding the sharpest details with handfuls of desert sand.

The paintings on exhibition es-

entially range from large watercolours through to monumental oils mixed with tempera and bronze on canvas, two by one and half metres in size. All, in the simplest terms, are semi-abstract constructions made up of the various architectural elements that are essentially Petra: the columns, the architraves, the funerary niches, the obelisks, the carved god blocks, the altars and the delicately carved statues.

Bierenbroodspot herself most aptly sums them up: "All my paintings," she writes "from the lost red city of the Nabateans, Petra or Raqmu of old, show confrontations in stone: a spatial play with unfurnished carved and broken forms. Conceptual conflicts and double meanings: spatial fragments on rice paper, canvas and marbles."

Bierenbroodspot hopes to return to Jordan this spring to continue her work... (MAF)

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Works of seven artists on display

Exhibition features best of Iraqi art movement

By Meg Abu Hmndan
special to The Star

AMMAN - The Iraqi contemporary art movement is one of the most active in the Middle East and its influence on other Arab and Islamic countries has been profound and far-reaching. This exciting and innovative work has been celebrated by many artists, particularly the more abstract ones, for the way it combines essentially Western styles and techniques with the country's own strong traditions and culture. The exhibition of the work of seven Iraqi artists currently on display at the Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery until the end of the month thus offers a rare opportunity to see the work of some of the most important abstract artists living and working in Baghdad today.

Of the work of the seven participating artists, the strange and evocative mural-like paintings of Sakir Hassan Al-Said are undoubtedly the most important. Born in 1925, Sakir Hassan Al-Said is one of Iraq's pioneering artists. Although initially an impressionistic painter, Al-Said turned to the abstract after four

years of study at the Academic Nationale des Beaux Arts in Paris. Through his own intellectual researches into aesthetics and Islamic heritage, Al-Said has developed a unique form of expressing the subconscious workings of the Arab mind. His wonderfully-textured paintings that look like sections of ancient weathered walls play with a sense of time. The grainy cracked and scratched surfaces and the colour of the desert sand, exude a feeling of great antiquity. The graffiti that sprawls across them - the isolated Arabic letters and the splatters of paint, however, bring them right into the 20th century. Mysterious and enigmatic, his work seems to offer coded clues about the past and an insight into the future.

Although regarded as Iraq's finest living sculptor, Ismael Fattah is represented at this exhibition by a lithograph and three oils on paper. Powerful and uncompromising these works deal with the human form which became vehicles for the expression of deep and sub-conscious emotions. Huge and stamessque, his depictions of the male figure ap-

pear massive and muscular. Although painted only in outline, partially filled in with colour, Fattah's work of manly forms is strikingly solid and real while at the same time one has the feeling he is very much isolated, vulnerable and alone. The softer more elusive nature of a woman is transmitted by hazy obscure lines which depict only parts of

Art
review

the total body. Born in 1934, Fattah first studied sculpture with the famous Iraqi artist Jawad Salim at the Institute for Fine Arts in Baghdad before going on to train in Rome. Much influenced by the works of the British sculptors Henry Moore and Kenneth Armitage, Fattah has executed many of the statues seen today all over Baghdad.

His largest and most important work is the Monument of the Unknown Soldier. This colossal structure which is made up of

two huge dome-shaped structures is described as combining "Islamic aesthetics with Western skill and technology."

Combining elements from both the work of Fattah and Al-Said, is Saadi Al-Kaabi. His strong seemingly simple works are full of stylised figures that grow like trees out of the base of the canvas, one behind another, each a shadow of the former. Never complete, these figures, which are often nothing more than heads and massive shoulders need each other for support. Only together do they become a whole. Like Al-Said, Kaabi's colours and textures are those of the desert: dusty, grainy beiges and browns that seem to have been subtly filed down to create a smoother softer surface.

Symbols which carry the same universal meaning link much of the works on show at this exhibition, in particular, the paintings by Salem Dabbagh and Mohammed Muhraddin. On backgrounds divided up geometrically in squares of pure colour, both Dabbagh and Muhraddin freely employ symbols such as the offset square, dots and circles and rainbow strips of colour that change in hue like pieces of limuspaper. But there any similarity ends, for where Dabbagh is simple, precise and austere, Muhraddin is complex, wild and chaotic. Dabbagh's extremely attractive works rely for their effect on the careful balancing of cool colours, of black with white and grey whose severity is calmed by a crumpled texture. Through his work, Dabbagh tries to show "the proportional relationship between emptiness as an absolute element and the surface as a relative space." Muhraddin on the other hand "paints a reality where paradox reigns." Like a blackboard that hasn't been well rubbed his work is full of half seen mathematical formulas and theories, of tiny calligraphy, incomplete messages, imprints of hands and hazy drawing that look like the negatives of an old and forgotten film. "His works," writes Suhail

Nadir, "are like letters written in a secret code which beckon the audience to open and read them. In composition these paintings are similar to a suitcase or a drawer where personal objects are scattered... where remarks and signatures have been quickly jotted down."

A well respected Iraqi artist, Rafa Al-Nasiri has been described as a poetic and sensitive artist of high technical skill with a strong attraction for aesthetics and the visual in colour. Born in 1940, Nasiri first studied painting at the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad before going on to study in Peking. In 1967, he went to Lisbon where he spent three years specialising in graphics. His two dimensional paintings of pure colour show the diversity of his background incorporating as they do rigid geometry in smooth painterly tones with rough spontaneous textured work full of calligraphy and age-old symbolism. Rafa Al-Nasiri founded the graphic section at the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad where he currently teaches.

Completing the exhibition is the work of Ali Taleb who is represented by both some of his earlier more surrealist work and by paintings executed only last year. A graduate of art from both Baghdad and Cairo, Taleb's earlier pieces painted in the seventies are striking for their well painted surfaces and their astonishing lime green backgrounds. In this is lightly etched an array of symbols which range from Miro type heads to rockets. His more recent work is a bolder more darkly powerful image whose title "Happenings in the Head" describes it more succinctly and eloquently than any wordy description.

Ismael Fattah, who came expressly from Baghdad to attend the opening of the exhibition, will be giving a lecture at the Abdel Hameed Shoman gallery about his art and its development over the last two years today, Thursday at 6 pm.

ECONOMY

The Star

Asfour: Reasonable pricing system has to be worked out
President of the Amman Chamber of Commerce
calls for revision of labour ban

By a Star Staff Writer

AMMAN - The President of Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and president of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, Mr Mohammad Asfour, has said that there is an ongoing dialogue between the private sector and the government to encourage long and short-term investments in the country, while "re-activating" the role of the private sector. In a special interview with The Star Mr Asfour said priority will go to small-size industries "which can absorb the largest number of Jordanian labour."



Mr Mohammad Asfour

Mr Asfour was critical of the Ministry of Labour decision to ban foreign workers from renewing their working permits. He said the ban does not help solve the problem of unemployment in Jordan since figures show that while the country has over 300,000 foreign workers, the number of unemployed Jordanians did not exceed 70,000. "This means you will still have over 220,000 foreign workers needed in various sectors," Mr Asfour said.

He said unemployment was mainly among skilled Jordanians, while foreign workers were involved in unskilled jobs. He suggested that the needs and potentials of each labour sector be studied independently of other sectors before labour regulations are issued. Mr Asfour said that foreign workers are ready to work in almost any sector, putting long hours without complaints, while Jordanian workers are very demanding.

Mr Asfour said the pressure on foreign workers has subsided lately because of the threats of local bakeries' owners, who employ a large number of unskilled Egyptians. The bakeries' owners were demanding that the government exempt their workers from the work permit fees.

He said that in order for the private sector to get involved in the present stage of economic restructuring, a number of steps should be taken mainly by the government. "The basic infrastructure should be prepared whereby the government creates a suitable investment climate through passing of necessary laws." He also stressed the need for the free movement of the private sector, doing away with bureaucratic constraints and giving incentives to local and foreign private sectors. In addition to all this he called for an end to "psychological hostilities against the private sector by the public sector."

Mr Asfour said there are no clear economic indicators to

point to an improvement in the economic recession in the near future, but added that the private sector is doing every thing possible to improve the situation. He said the Chamber is working on a public awareness campaign through organising seminars and publishing articles to highlight the role of the private sector in economic activity.

He could not confirm if the prices of consumer goods will stabilise at their current scale, because imports are subject to foreign exchange fluctuations. "Most of our consumer goods are imported from Europe and European currencies are rising constantly," Mr Asfour said. But he also noted that the Chamber is "co-operating" with the legislative and the executive authorities in order to work out a for-

mula for pricing. While the Ministry of Trade and Industry is responding positively to the Chamber's requests, the Ministry of Supply is "backing away from its responsibility". He said that with the Ramadan fasting season approaching, a pricing formula has to be agreed upon. "They (the Ministry of Supply and the Law House Financial Committee) must understand that commerce cannot function on losses," Mr Asfour said. "Without a margin of profit merchants cannot function."

He said all consumer goods will be available so long as the government sets prices that gives "a reasonable profit margin" to the three sectors of traders, namely; importers (wholesalers), distributors and retailers.

More controls on wholesalers

AMMAN (Star) - In order to tighten controls over subsidised commodities, the Minister of Supply Mr Nabil Abu Al Huda, issued regulation Number 1 of 1990 which specifies the procedures for handling and storing subsidised commodities by Jordanian wholesalers.

The regulation stipulates that all wholesalers must be registered with the Chamber of Commerce and be approved by the Ministry of Supply. Only wholesalers are allowed to trade in subsidised commodities.

According to the regulation, large hotels, restaurants, sweets manufacturing factories are considered wholesalers. The Ministry requested that all wholesalers submit monthly inventory lists of the commodities they stock. In another development the cabinet decided to grant the Military and Civil Consumer Corp. more tariff and tax exemptions. As of 1 January 1990, the Military Consumer Corp. will enjoy a total exemption of JD 7 million instead of JD 4.5 million. The Civil Consumer Corp. will enjoy a total exemption of JD 6.5 million instead of JD 4.5 million.

Briefs

● The Government has approved a reconciliation agreement between the Ministry of Supply and Makain Company regarding a previous disagreement over a rice deal which was shipped on the Jordanian vessel "Al Karamah".

● Ministry of Energy sources have said that Jordan's output of natural gas in Al Risha field will save the country \$ 100 million by 1995 out of Jordan's energy bill which will total \$ 400 million.

The sources said a study is underway to determine the feasibility of using natural gas in homes.

● Jordan has reached an agreement with the Tap Line Company to supply the Kingdom with Saudi oil. The deal will be financed through a credit by the Islamic Bank worth \$30 million.

● As a result of His Majesty King Hussein's recent visit to the Gulf states, a number of economic delegations are expected to visit the country in order to seek ways to support Jordan's balance of payment through joint ventures and depositing large sums of money in the Central Bank of Jordan. The Star has learned.

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AMMAN (Star) - About 20 Jordanian manufacturers will participate in The Jakarta International Fair in June, according to Jordan Trade Association's (JTA) Executive Manager Mr Halim Abu Rahmeh. JTA, which is organising the Jordanian wing, is a non profit organisation aiming at promoting Jordanian goods and services. Mr Abu Rahmeh said, in an interview with The Star that the fair will be a good chance for Jordanian manufacturers to introduce Jordanian-made goods to Indonesia and other South Asian countries. Last year about 1.5 million attended the annual fair.

JTA takes Jordanian goods to Jakarta

AMMAN (Star) - About 20 Jordanian manufacturers will participate in The Jakarta International Fair in June, according to Jordan Trade Association's (JTA) Executive Manager Mr Halim Abu Rahmeh. JTA, which is organising the Jordanian wing, is a non profit organisation aiming at promoting Jordanian goods and services. Mr Abu Rahmeh said, in an interview with The Star that the fair will be a good chance for Jordanian manufacturers to introduce Jordanian-made goods to Indonesia and other South Asian countries. Last year about 1.5 million attended the annual fair.



Halim Abu Rahmeh

Although priority will go to JTA's 35 members, the association will ask non-member Jordanian manufacturers to participate in the Jordanian wing which will occupy a space of 144 sq. meters. "We are going to Indonesia to represent Jordan and not only our members" Mr Abu Rahmeh said.

He added that after visiting Indonesia he was convinced that there was a market for Jordanian products especially in the areas of insecticides, pesticides, fertilisers, locks, baby buggies, pipes and other goods which are of international standards. In addition, Jordanians will make use of Indonesia's raw materials especially wood, paper, machinery and coffee.

Government not to renew contracts of companies working on Zarqa project

JERASH (Star) - Following recent reviews by Arab donors, the Zarqa River Basin project encompassing 12,000 farms will be extended until the end of 1995. However, due to high costs, Australian and West German technical consultancy contracts will not be renewed and the project will be remanded to the Ministry of Agriculture for completion.

Mr Wael Kanaan, chairman of the Irrigation and Agriculture Division for the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, told The Star that the Jordanian government's financial contribution to the project is now "zero." "Usually, we finance only the foreign component of such a project, but because of the bad economic situation here, we (and other Arab donors) have been asked to fund all project costs, both local and foreign," Kanaan added.

He said he expects two or three technical advisers to assist the Ministry of Agriculture

in continuing the project. The project began three years ago, in an effort to prevent soil erosion and enhance crop productivity by alleviating silt deposits at the King Talal Dam reservoirs. Land use and management of the project has been directed by the Australian firm SAGRIC International and the West German Organisation, Agrar-und-Hydro-technik.

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Euro-deposit rates:

	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	8.5/16	8.1/8	15.1/8	7.31	9.1/8
2 mo.	8.3/8	8.1/4	15.5/16	7.37	9.1/4
3 mo.	8.3/8	8.7/16	15.3/8	7.43	9.1/4
6 mo.	8.7/16	8.7/8	15.1/2	7.625	9.5/16
1 year	8.3/4	9.5/16	15.3/4	7.725	9.7/16

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 75%. Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.5%, 1 month 9%, 2 months 9.125%, 3 months 9.25%, 1 year 9.5%. Lending rate (AAA) 12%.

Dollars:

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FFR
LAST	1.6958/68	1.4965/75	1.6415/25	149.07/12	1.1885/90	5.7355/85

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Rule-of-thumb

Healthy and Natural Foods

IN A letter addressed to the Minister of Information in 1989, the Minister of Health maintained that public health requirements prohibit the use of media channels to advertise for misguiding products. There are certain products which are considered food items and do not qualify to be classified as medicines. Usually these food items are advertised as "Natural and Healthy". The Ministry of Health considers that, not only the advertised products, but also the ads are misguiding and not real. The owner of the concerned products should obtain approval from the Ministry of Health on the text and form of the proposed ad, especially that such food item relates, or is subject to, public health regulations. Those interested in advertising for food products should get a written approval from the "Permanent Committee" at the Ministry of Health.

In a circular by the Ministry of Health in 1989, such food, non-medicine, items are usually advertised as dietary, body nutrition, vitamin, reducing weight, special to a certain disease, or just "Natural and Healthy".

Therefore the Ministry of Health requested that all traders and importers of food items should, upon getting an import license, conform with the "Specification No. 9 of 1979" related to the declaration label. The declaration label should state in Arabic the same English text upon selling to the Consumer, provided that the English declaration is true and not misguiding. The "Permanent Committee" at the Ministry should approve any changes to the declaration label before such goods are cleared by the customs.

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Made-in-Jordan

Product offers from Jordanian exporters:

1. Aluminium ladders, Baby walkers, Baby buggies, hot plate gas cookers, kerosene heaters, strollers.
Contact:
1-Atadim Industries Co. Ltd.
P.O. Box 183661
Amman-Jordan.
Tel: 623098/627812
Fax: 611745
Tel: 23180 ALADIN JO
- 2-Office Furniture, swivel chairs, garden furniture, theater chairs
Contact:
Forum Furniture company
P.O. Box 926226
Amman-Jordan
Tel: 686056/841384
Fax: 834824
Tel: 21437 HANDSA JO
- 3-CARPETS, RUOS
Contact:
Global Carpet & Rug Industries
- P.O. Box 113
Amman Industrial Estate
Sahab-Jordan.
Tel: 722811
Fax: 722992
Tel: 23808 NADER JO
- 4-Continuous computer forms, medical forms.
Contact:
Nashashibi & Ebbini Forms
P.O. Box 9823
Amman-Jordan
Tel: 09-997788
Fax: 09-997790
Tel: 21228 ERBINT JO

Jordanian exporters wishing to list their product offers in this section are kindly requested to contact the Jordan Trade Association, P.O. Box 830432 Amman-Jordan, Tel. 685603/4 with a list of exportable products manufactured and full address.

Gold & Silver

	JD
Gold	8,900.000
1kg	7,750
21 ct	6,650
18 ct	
Eng. pound	64,000
8g	
Rashad:	56,000
7g	
24ct (swiss)	9,650
Silver	
1 kg	160,000

Money Matters

Average exchange rates on

in JLD

	Buy	Sell
US\$	671.0	675.0
£	1108.2	1114.8
DM	390.4	392.7
SFR	443.6	446.3
FRF	115.8	116.5
YEN	446.3	449.3
(100)		
DFL	346.6	348.7
SKR	109.3	110.0
LIT	53.0	53.3
BLF	188.1	189.2
(10)		

Consumer Watch

Health-care products

SELLING FRAUDELENT health-care products is a dangerous task. They are fraudulent because they are not dispensed according to a pharmacist's prescription and are not regulated by common standards and specifications.

In the downtown market a number of health-care items fit our example. They are usually displayed and traded on the open market. Examples of such products are: shampoo, shaving cream, toothpaste, hand cream, body oil, sun-tan oil, face powder, etc. Make-up users are the most reported victims, because what they buy is not standardized anywhere in the manufacturing specifications.

The shapers of the products are numerous. They are sold in fancy metal cylinder-type containers, well-designed plastic bottles, good packaging and packing, small glass-type boxes which look like crystal, colourful pocket-type boxes made of plastic or other transparent articles.

The Star interviewed a number of female university students who bought cheap make-up packed in small multi-color paper bags. Upon asking them, the girls told us that they were buying a special formula. The Star asked a chemist to analyze the product those female university students had purchased, and the result was that the make-up consisted of 42 per cent red oxide substances. When the Star told the girls that this make-up is not a real make-up but just a tranquillizer, the girls disagreed and argued that they were getting the same formula they would have got when buying fancy-packaged make-up on the open market. There is a problem which needs more awareness and motivates all of us in check with professionals and doctors before buying health-care products which sound too good to be true.

The idea behind fraudulent health-care products is not only that the seller wants to make profits, while in fact he is misleading the purchaser to delay appropriate health care.

Contracts & Contacts

● Arab Potash Co. 14/90, Incomel 625 and Alloy 625, JD 100

27/3/1990. 15/90' Pipes and Fittings, JD 10, 7/4/90. 16/90, Multifunction digital motor production relays with all accessories, JD 25, 8/4/1990

● Armed Forces/Medical Services Directorate SH 28/90, Medicaments, JD 100, 15/4/90

● Notional Medical Institution, Medical equipments and supplies for hospitals, JD 100, 5/4/90.

● Royal Scientific Society, 27/90, Soil probing diggings, JD 10, 10/3/1990.

● Jordan Sulpho-Chemicals Co., 6/90, Soda Ash, 100 tons, JD 10, 25/3/90.

● Aqaba Railway Corp., 1/90, Truck hooks, quantity 25,000, JD 40, 4/4/90.

● Mutah University L 2/90, Stationery, JD 15, 18/3/90. L 3/90, Cleaning materials, JD 10. L 4/90, Electrical Appliances, JD 10, 25/3/1990. L 5/90, Sanitary and construction materials, JD 15, 25/3/1990.

● Ma'on Governorate/Directorate of Works, M/4/90, Engineering works, JD 10, 11/3/90. M/5/90, Engineering works, JD 10, 10/3/90.

● Aqaba Region Authority, 3/1990, Traffic signs, JD 10, 18/3/90.

● Jordan Sulpho-Chemicals Co., transporting its products, 1250 tons to Hodeidah/Yemen and 1100 tons to Mekhal Yemen. Total 130 containers. Freight date 20/4/90 - 20/5/90, 10/3/1990.

● General Supplies Dept., 9/90, Computer maintenance, JD 10, 10/3/1990. 13/90, Sports equipment, JD 5, 31/3/1990. 20/90, Glassware and chemicals, JD 10, 3/3/1990

● Yarmouk University, L 7/90, Laboratory and scientific instruments, JD 3, 24/3/1990.

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Industrial Estates

Social Security Corp., Branch AT Amman Industrial Estate / Sahab

THIS BRANCH was established at the Amman Industrial Estate in Sahab in February 1989 to offer services and facilities to industries located within the Industrial Estate.

Some of the services offered are:

- Helping firms registering its workers in the social services scheme.
- Receiving insured application forms to those who need to obtain their legal compensations in addition to paying beneficiaries.
- Receiving accident notifications from workers insured under the scheme and following their medical reports and settling their bills in the shortest possible time.
- Helping beneficiaries within the area in paying their pensions.
- Receiving due payments of firms and establishments joining the scheme.
- Answering any inquiries from companies and workers concerning the social services scheme and its incentives.

It is worth mentioning that the Social Security Corp. has two kinds of insurance. First one against work accidents and profession illnesses and, second, insurance against old age and death.

Arab Weavers Factory Co.

- Location: Amman Industrial Estate/Sahab
- Starting Production date: end of 1989
- Invested capital: JD 1,500,000
- No. of workers: 100 workers
- Type of Production:

The factory produces 750,000 sq. m. of rugs annually in different sizes and shapes and exports around 30 per cent to Iraq and the Gulf countries.

Shows & Exhibitions

Computex Taipei

THE ANNUAL Computer Taipei will be held in the Taipei World Trade Center Exhibition Hall and the China External Trade Development Council (CETRA) Exhibition Hall at the Sunghshan Airport Terminal, July 6-12, 1990. The Show is organized by CETRA and the Taipei Computer Association. Aside from the Exhibition, another new attraction of Computer Taipei 90 is the "Workshop on Taiwan Experience". This workshop is organized by the South Asia Information Technology Organisation. It will be held from July 8-9 at the Taipei World Trade Center. Major products displayed at Computex Taipei will include: personal computers and laptop computers, printers, communications products, terminals, word processors, monitors, keyboards, PCs, facsimile systems, controllers and controllers cards, shapers etc.

Iraq : a quick recovery on the cards?

By Maryam Schiller
Special to The Star

Despite a massive debt believed to exceed \$60 billion, Iraq has convinced major international businesses and investors that it has a bright economic future and that it is time for them to move in.

VIENNA - While Iran grapples with ideological problems inhibiting its recovery and return to the international arena, Iraq has succeeded in convincing western businesses and investors that they have a major role to play in the country's future development.

Both countries suffered physical damage worth billions of dollars and about a million casualties in the war which started in 1980 and ended with a cease-fire in August 1988.

Iraq particularly borrowed heavily to build a war machine that was instrumental in Iran's decision to accept the cease-fire. The country's total external debt is believed by experts to exceed \$60 billion.

But since the war's end Baghdad has tried assiduously to attract business and investors with a series of blueprint for reconstruction projects. It's an effort which may now be bearing fruit, according to diplomatic business industry sources.

The latest Iraqi initiative is to offer guaranteed crude oil supplies on long terms in return for international help with exploration and development of new oil fields. The aim of the exercise, according to industry sources, is to "get things done without having to pay extra." Some analysts said the idea was particularly attractive to those who are convinced that the oil price will go up sharply before the end of the century.

Iraq's Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi, in remarks reported recently, reaf-

firmed that, "We will pay back the investment with the crude from each particular project."

In the years prior to cease-fire Iraq reinforced its oil production capacity with a series of complex deals with neighbours Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. In the past year and a half, it has restored almost the full pre-war production capacity.

However, Iraq's reported potential to report 5 million barrels a day is nearly 2 million more than what it is allowed to sell under the quota system enforced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Although the quota system is not a binding requirement for any of the 13 sovereign states in the OPEC camp, each member is expected to honour the "gentlemen's agreement."

In order for Iraq to benefit from its increase capacity, industry sources said, Baghdad may also have to fight a few more battles on the diplomatic front to get a higher quota. At the moment Iraq is committed to producing no more than 3.14 million barrels a day.

Industry sources believe that Iraq offers an attractive market with nearly 17 million potential consumers of everything from baby food to cars and clothing. The government's offer of oil-for-investment or oil-for-expertise may just be the thing that outward looking European industries may go for. Iran has made similar soundings and, in

one respect it has a certain edge over Iraq: its population with market three times as large as that of Iraq.

At the moment, however, it is far from certain whether investors would want to pour money largely into oil-related industries or other manufacturing and mineral development. Either way Iraq stands to gain if the investors accept the principle of taking crude oil in return.

Al Chalabi said, "foreign participation (in the development of new oil capacity) will give us the option of increasing production without putting pressure on our finances." The need to keep spending low is illustrated by the fact that Iraq must soon start repaying its huge debt at about \$5 billion a year - nearly a quarter of its total annual income

from oil.

The Arab-Swiss Chamber of Commerce, in a recent report on the country, said there would be "no problem" for the long-term financing of Iraqi development plans. It said that, in addition to oil, Iraq could also use its other mineral wealth as bargaining counters.

Already the government of President Saddam Hussein has initiated a programme of "glasnost" that involves greater participation to the private sector in industry, agriculture and tourism. A plan to set up an industrial zone is also under study. Commercial agents and intermediaries are in the allowed to conduct business with state companies and departments under a new law.

The chamber said that the lib-

eralisation policies of the government, plus the privatisation of several state enterprises, had created "favourable conditions" for an economic growth of four to five per cent a year in the next four years.

The government import bill also was likely to be limited to eight to nine billion dollars a year, with the private sector likely to meet more of the demand for consumer goods. Although there is some scepticism in industry circles about that outlook, experts point out that Iraq may indeed succeed in cutting its import bill if it keeps its military purchases in check and gives more of the funds over to manufacturing and consumer purchases.

There are plans, for example, to raise the country's steel and fertiliser production capacity and set up an aluminium smelter and develop the ports of Umm Qasr and Khor Al-Zubair.

Academic File

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Our Say...

Israel's peace dilemma

THE PRESENT government crisis in Israel over the so-called Baker proposal on Palestinian-Israeli dialogue serves as an indication of the critical stage at which the peace process in the Middle East has arrived. We have seen in the past few weeks an attempt by most parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict to salvage what is left of last year's peace proposals, but to this day it is Israel that refuses to give peace a chance.

While the Palestinian Intifada continues to rage in the occupied territories, political activity to support it seems to have stalled. The Arab world has failed to come with a realistic alternative to the status quo, the United States has simply abandoned its role, if there was ever one, as a honest broker of peace in the Middle East. The latest flurries of contradicting statements from Washington have only strengthened the position of hard-liners in Israel, while fueling Arab sentiments and radicalising the Arab street.

Those who bet on Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir may now rethink their policies. Mr Shamir is attempting to shift attention from his own party to Israel's Labour, which for the last year proved incapable of steering its own independent course of action and breaking away from its uncomfortable marriage to the Likud. More conditions have been put forward by Mr Shamir this week on the Labour party, and that can simply be interpreted as an infomnal rejection of any attempt to bring Palestinians and Israelis together at the negotiation table.

The United States, which we still believe can play a constructive role in this region, has also avoided a show-down with Mr Shamir over his government's policies in the occupied areas, and over the peace proposals. Industrious politicians will see that America's national interests - and indeed those of the rest of the world - will not be served by allowing Israel to ride in a dangerous course, which could possibly lead to the rise in radicalism on both sides of the fence. If the United States really understands this region, then it must put its interest before that of Israel's.

We cannot afford to go backward or pretend that time will deal with this area's conflicts. The rise of Palestinian nationalism is a fact which Israel has failed to conceal or stifle for more than 20 years. Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands will never fulfil its objective of absorbing the West Bank and Gaza Strip into the Israeli state. Prolonging the conflict will not change these facts, but will only make these issues more complicated with additional suffering on everyone involved including Israel and its people.

As we look at the unfolding crisis inside Israel, we know for sure that the present Israeli government will never be able to stand up to its responsibility and make the first Israeli step towards peace. Only if Israel must make changes within itself can it ever be ready for peace making the area. The United States must not help in prolonging the life of the present Israeli government. If Israel is ready to produce a leader who will make peace with the Palestinians, then it must be given that chance.

On the other hand, if the present crisis ends in producing a radical government that will continue the policies of repression and war mongering, then we, the Arabs, must be ready for that possibility too. It takes two to create peace, but only one to launch a deadly war.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Delighted...

To the editor:

I was really delighted when I saw The Star on the newsstands again. I am a student at the University of Jordan where I study architecture and your newspaper is just the right one for me. I particularly like your art reviews. Your TV guide is splendid too. Keep up the good work.

Ahmad Mohammad Ali
Amman

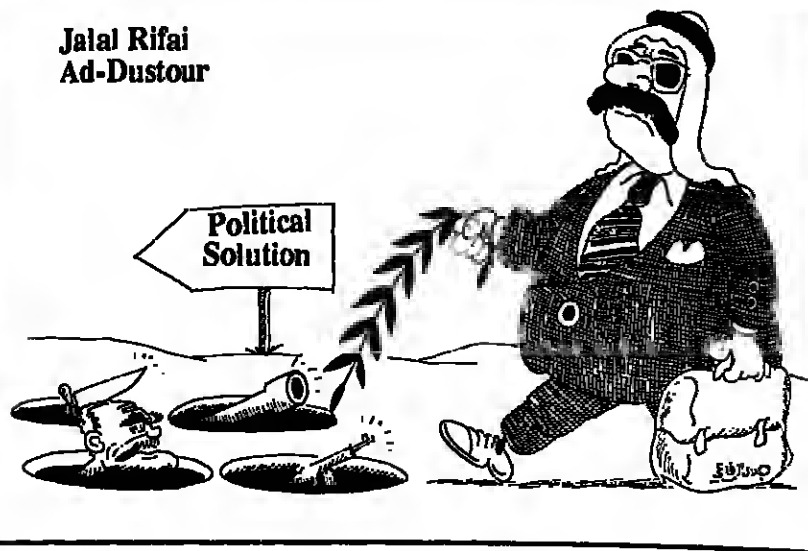
LETTERS to the Editor should contain the full name and address of writer.

The Star

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Postscript

by Osama El-Sherif

Sports with a dash of politics

A CYNICAL friend of mine once said to me before he packed up his bags and emigrated to Canada: "I am running away from politics. Here, everything is polluted with politics... from the seemingly innocent chat of the young to the shy whispering of the aged. I can't take it." After settling down in Toronto, my friend wrote to me jokingly: "I only wish the Arabs would settle their differences in a more civilised fashion like in a football field and accept the results in good spirits."

I remembered my friend's last words when I read about the fiasco of the Gulf Football Cup Tournament in Kuwait, which, typically, fell victim to political squabbles among a number of Arab countries. Ambitious foreign commentators wasted little time in digging up the roots of the conflicts, which began with Saudi Arabia's surprise withdrawal from the tournament before it was opened and then the more surprising Iraqi withdrawal after less than a week of the opening. The BBC's correspondent in the area told listeners the full story of Saudi Arabia's unfortunate decision and then explained how the Iraqis came to leave when they were considered favourites to winning the much-coveted Gulf Cup.

Without going into much details, it seems the Saudis were angered by the Kuwaiti choice of the tournament's mascot which depicted two horses said to symbolise the two horses which brought to the Kuwaitis the news of the foray of a tribe from the Hijaz on Kuwaiti lands in the early 1920s. The Kuwaitis managed to repel the conquest and liberated their turf. The choice of the mascot was considered to be a bad taste on the part of the Kuwaitis, the tournament's hosts, which offended the Saudis.

The Iraqis on the other hand had a less political reason, apparently, to withdraw. A match between Iraq and the United Arab Emirates was thought to have been badly refereed, leading to the expulsion of a major Iraqi player before the end of the game. Although the Iraqis played with only 10 players they managed to score an equaliser against the UAE, which will represent Asia in the World Cup finals in

Italy this June.

There is a consensus among the Arabs that when it comes to football, nothing takes priority. Probably this love of the game is not any different from that of Europeans, Latin Americans and South Asians. In fact even, the United States, which is a newcomer to this game, has managed to reach the finals in Italy and is said to be preparing to host the World Cup before the end of this century in a move to introduce soccer to America.

Politics and sports are indeed strange bed mates. But politics has managed to "pollute", to use my friend's expression, the finest and noblest of man's competitions; the Olympic Games. Sports has become an effective punitive and bargaining tool in the hands of politicians. It was used against South Korea by North Korea, Israel by the Arabs, Taiwan by the People's Republic of China, and the Soviet Union by the United States and vice versa.

Athletes are victimised by the process of politicising sports. They become pawns in the hands of governments seeking to achieve political objectives. Idealists, myself included, believe this should not always be the case. But the same idealists know only very well that the cycle of human activity rarely responds to their desire.

So we are left with a weird mixture of sports for the sake of sports with a sprinkling of politics... too much of which detracts from the game. This is what happened in Kuwait this week. Sports fans of this very fine tournament were disappointed to see two very important teams absent from what promised to be a strong event.

I think my Canadian-Arab friend will face another shock when he hears the news. Even on the playground we cannot avoid mixing politics with sports and the I don't think his proposal of inviting the Arabs to settle their political differences in a soccer match will do the trick. Politicians are too awkward for this sort of game. Besides, as far as I know, they make terrible football players too. The spectators, I believe, will not be amused.

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8 MARCH 1990

Opinion

Internal and external dangers facing the Intifada

By Dr As'ad Abdul Rahman

IT HAS become a well-known fact now that Israel is meticulously planning a multi-sided massacre against the Palestinian Intifada and its cadres and popular committees. This approach is spearheaded by the "triumvirate Isaacs", as they are often referred to in Israel and abroad. They comprise: Isaac Shamir, the hard-headed Likudnik and a staunch adherer to Biblical Israel; Isaac Rabin, the "Child Killer" and the "Neo-fascist General" as he is described in liberal and progressive Israeli literature; and Isaac Mordachai, the notorious military commander of the Central Area and the West Bank.

Since the eruption of the Palestinian Intifada, the Israeli Army has deployed various tactics in a futile attempt to smash it. The Palestinians have courageously endured mass punishment and a multitude of oppressive measures including vicious beatings, mass arrests and plastic, rubber and lead bullets. Their ability to challenge these oppressive tactics won them the admiration of the world. Twenty-seven months after its outbreak, the Intifada has wrought a shift in international public opinion and has convinced many Israelis and their supporters that the continued occupation and rule by force of roughly two million Palestinians is both dangerous and absurd.

After two years of continued success, however, the Intifada is facing the danger of being stalled. Internal and external factors combine to give partial credibility to this rather frustrating fact. Internally, the first and by far the most direct danger, though explicit and therefore not in need of additional elaboration, is Israeli oppression and racist policy. The two other internal, though indirect, dangers include what could be called "the option of violence" and the problem of "collaborators".

Externally, however, two potential threats are still facing the Intifada, namely, the weakened and more reticent international mass media, its present attitude to, and the extent of its coverage of events in the occupied territories and, second, the once flourishing hopes that a just and comprehensive settlement is finally at hand are both being constantly shattered by Israel's increasing recalcitrance.

As for the second internal danger, "the option of violence," more Palestinians, other Arabs and even Westerners are inclined to believe that the Israelis have, more or less, contained the Intifada and that unless Palestinians resort to armed struggle to make Israel pay dearly for its prolonged occupation, Israel is able to cope with this level of violence indefinitely. Since few Israelis come into direct contact with the violence, the example of Lebanon - when the Israeli Army was bogged down in a costly war of attrition - must be repeated in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On the other hand, opponents of this argument fear that any escalation of violence could jeopardise hard-won Israeli and international sympathy and would not doubt tarnish the image of a rebellion fought by children with stones.

Armed struggle opponents argue that this will be a God-send pretext which the Israelis will use to launch a full-scale assault on the Intifada. Unfettered and enjoying vast military superiority, the IDF will fight the war in its own brutal way and

will no doubt conduct mass deportation of the inhabitants to neighbouring countries, thus relieving Israel of its demographic nightmare.

The third internal danger facing the Intifada is the problem of collaborators. Through the long years of occupation and skilful utilisation of the economic hardships, Israel has succeeded in recruiting a number of collaborators, some of whom were trained and armed and left to terrorise the inhabitants. When the rather successful calls for repentance by the "Unified National Command" went unheeded by some of these collaborators, the cadres of the Intifada determined to stem their civil.

Despite some cases of misjudgment that nobody can deny, this campaign continued unabated in the various parts of the occupied territories, though with strict instructions from the Palestinian leadership to keep their actions under control. Also, it is worth mentioning that through the long years of Israeli occupation and in order to escape from dismal living conditions and frustrating realities, few hundred Palestinians were bound to, or were implicitly enticed to, join the flourishing underground business of drug trafficking and addiction. Once addicted, they became an easy prey in the hands of Israel and succumbed to blackmail, thus swelling the ranks of the trained and armed collaborators set loose on the inhabitants, all



the Palestinian Intifada at present.

Worse still is the dominance of the Zionist Lobby over several major mass media agencies in the West, especially in the United States, which has given an important leverage to Israel and has enabled it to redirect the media coverage to suit its specific objectives.

Certain aspects were de-emphasised and neglected and others were projected to the West and given much undue fanfare.

The campaign against Palestinian quillings was portrayed to the West to indicate a drive on the part of the Intifada to kill Palestinian moderates who disagree with the PLO. This trend, if left unchecked, would result in neutralising the Western

mass media and still worse, could result in their adopting a negative attitude towards the Intifada, thus undermining earlier hard-won gains.

The second external danger that is presently facing the Intifada stems from the following scenario: failure to achieve an early political settlement, along with the continued Israeli negative and intransigent position and the apparent American indifference and lack of political commitment to a quick Middle Eastern settlement are all factors that will eventually weaken Arab moderation which gained ground after 1975.

The Arab and Palestinian moderation reached its peak during the second Arab Fez Summit meeting in 1982, the moderate resolutions of the Palestine National Council (PNC) held in November 1988 and the subsequent several official Palestinian declarations of further moderation throughout 1989. Failure to utilise the present mood of moderation will result in tremendous feelings of frustration and disappointment, if not disaster. Further violence seems to be the only logical way out of the present frustrating political stalemate.

Desperate as they are, some Palestinians could resort to reckless acts of violence, the sort that Israel, stalemated and eager for a way out of its isolation, would most probably prefer in order to launch a military pre-emptive strike.

Arab retaliation will no doubt ensue, and the resulting uncontrollable violence might escalate into a war that only God knows how and when it would end. The Unified Command of the Intifada and the PLO are aware of this scenario and are so far successfully restraining their rank and file. The leadership of the PLO is obsessed with this impending danger, and the international community has a duty to help defuse this lurking menace by speeding up the peace process before it is too late.

View Point

by
Yacoub Jaber

Moving again

THE 800,000 Palestinians living in Israel have moved again, reasserting their belonging to the Palestinian mainstream and highlighting their national identity as indigenous Palestinians deeply committed to the cause of their people.

Thousands of them have signed a petition calling on the Soviet Union to stop Jewish immigration to Israel. The petition is a new sign of the growing alienation of these Arab citizens and their increasing identification with wider Arab concerns such as the protest against the Soviet Jewish immigration and the 27 month old Palestinian uprising.

Palestinians in Israel have never felt safe or secure under Israeli rule. All along they have been treated as second-class citizens with very limited rights. They have been deprived of jobs, and allocation for public services in their areas have been very scarce.

Last week, Arab local councils in Israel went on a general strike to protest lack of funds for their councils and the deliberate negligence of their day-to-day concerns by the Israeli authorities.

In their petition to the Soviet Union, they maintained that the immigrants will deprive them of jobs and land. Indeed, it has been a common practice by the Israeli rulers to deprive members of its Arab community of decent and adequate jobs, and confiscate their land under flimsy pretexts to make way for a new Jewish settlement or simply to make life very harsh for them.

From the very beginning of the Intifada, the Palestinians in Israel had come strongly in support of this nationalist movement and demonstrated on many occasions calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

They felt that a victory for the West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians is a victory for the entire Palestinian people of whom they are an inseparable part.

Sensing the danger, the Israeli authorities ruthlessly repressed their protests. But Palestinian in Israel continue to demonstrate solidarity with the uprising in various ways. They know deep at heart that they are indigenous Palestinians and not Israeli Arabs as Israel likes to call them.

Their protest against Jewish immigration is a new sign of their growing frustration with their status as second-class citizens. It is, above all, a clear signal that they identify themselves with the rest of the Palestinian people and the concerns of the entire Arab nation. After more than 40 years of being citizens in Israel, they have not been forced to abandon their national identity or their deep commitment to the cause of their people.

In the not very far future, Israel will have to cope with two and a half million Palestinians living across historical Palestine. It is the "time bomb" which Israel will ultimately fear most.

THE STAR 13

A megalopolis is born

By Mervyn Westlake
Special to The Star

CITIZENS OF today's industrialised societies will represent a diminishing minority of the planet's inhabitants as the 21st century unfolds. They will also form a minority that is, on average, getting steadily older. Falling fertility rates and rising life expectancies are causing almost every country outside sub-Saharan Africa to age. But this process is much more advanced in the industrialised countries of the North.

By the early years of the next century, there will typically be as many people over 40 years old as under in Western Europe. In the developing world, the majority of people in most countries will still be under 30 and, in some, like Nigeria, under 20. And, of the 3-billion people expected between now and 2025, about 19 out of 20 will be in the developing world.

As recently as 1950, every third person lived in the more developed regions - North America, Europe (including the USSR), Japan, Australia and New Zealand. By 2025, only about one person in six will inhabit what, with the exception of Japan, are countries largely populated by Europeans. By that time, too, over half of the South's roughly 7-billion people will live in towns and cities, as will over three-quarters of the 1.4-billion people living in the North.

The demographic changes of the next few decades will have considerable implications for trade, investment, savings and capital flows between regions. Although there are signs that the rate of population growth is slowing in many countries - a principal exception being much of sub-Saharan Africa - the total will continue to rise for a long time, passing 8-billion in the third decade of the next century, according to International Labour Office projections.

Then, Asia will account for over half the total, having increased by 50 per cent. This will tend to bolster the position of the Pacific region countries as a centre of economic and financial gravity in the 21st century.

The fastest population growth will take place in Africa, where the number of inhabitants should more than double by 2025 - if famine and conflict do not prevent it. Africa's population will then exceed that of North America, Europe, the USSR and Japan combined.

The world population is aging everywhere but in Africa. Two of the most extreme examples of this process are Japan and West Germany. Because of high fertility rates before 1950 and a higher life expectancy since then, the proportion of the population aged 65 and above will almost double between 1990 and 2025, from about 11 per cent to over 20 per cent. Europe as a whole, and North America will see similar, if less rapid, aging.

This will raise the ratio of non-workers to workers, and add to the burden of supporting an economically inactive portion of the population. At present there are about six people of working age

(15-64) in Japan to support each elderly person. In 2025, there will be three. Japan has already begun to respond to this trend by sending some of its older people in colonies overseas, notably Australia.

In Latin America and Asia, the proportion of the population aged 65 and above is likely to rise (from a relatively low base), but this is more than offset by a fall in under-15s, so the economic

in 1950 already lived in urban areas whereas only 17 per cent in the south did. Projections suggest that over half the developing world will live in towns and cities by 2020. This will put strains on housing, transport and other services, but it will stimulate business.

In 1970, there were only four cities with over 10 million inhabitants, by 2000 there could be at least a dozen. World bank ex-

reasonably successful, they will not escape the consequences of higher interest rates, which will be dictated by the big industrial countries. If developing countries do not maintain competitive levels of interest, they will lose their savings to the north.

Meanwhile, the expansion of the South's labour force will tend to depress productivity, unless workers are flexible and capital is used effectively. The combi-

sion in the South would greatly dilute income gains per head. Only a few countries in Asia seem likely, on present trends, to achieve a relative reduction in the gap between their income per head and that in the high income countries of the industrialised world, although China could possibly be in this select band.

With the labor force in the north aging - experienced but, perhaps, resistant to change - and a growing number of young people in the South,

there is likely to be an upsurge in migration. A company shon of young labour will have to decide whether to import workers or export capital to employ them in their own countries. Japan is choosing to invest overseas, but Europe and the US have shown willingness to import labour.

Compared with rates of inter-continental migration from Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries, present permanent emigration rates are small. Permanent emigration would have to be on a considerable

scale to dent labour force growth in the South. Even if 700,000

immigrants a year were admitted to the major host countries - Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the US - and all came from low-income countries, less than 2 per cent of the projected growth in population in these countries between 1982 and 2000 would have emigrated, forecasts the World Bank. However, this number would place considerable strains on the host countries, accounting for 36 per cent of their projected population increase.

There has been a marked rise in temporary migration over the last three decades. By the mid-1970s, there were 6.5 million foreign workers in Europe, constituting 30 per cent of the work force in Luxembourg, more than 18 per cent in Switzerland and about 8 per cent in Belgium, France and West Germany. These migrants came mostly from Mediterranean countries.

There were also about 2 million foreign workers in the Middle East, constituting about 40 per cent of the employed workforce in the major labour-importing countries of the region in the mid-1970s.

The total number of temporary workers abroad was estimated at between 13 million and 15 million in 1980. And there were a further 2 million to 4 million illegal migrants in the US, chiefly from Mexico.

As with permanent emigrants, temporary emigrants constitute only a

small proportion of the overall labour force of developing countries. For individual countries, emigrants can represent a significant slice of the labour force. For the biggest countries, India and Bangladesh, for example, it is less than one per cent.

While the coming years could see an increase, emigration will not provide a solution to the South's burgeoning labour force.

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Family Planning

Place your better view

ically active portion will continue to show a relative rise for some years to come.

By far the most serious problem for the developing countries is creating enough jobs. The number of economically active in the South will rise by 1.2-billion between now and 2025. That is equal to the entire working population of the mid-1970s. Asia will have to create more than half the new jobs and Africa about a third. Many economists believe that a high propor-

tion of a rapidly growing population and dynamic growth seems likely to increase intra-Pacific trade.

Trade across the Pacific has already surpassed that across the Atlantic. In all probability, the movement of goods between Western Pacific countries will eventually become the largest of any region, although it will be quite a few years before it overtakes trade between Western European countries.

One certainty is that world income distribution will become more equal. The absolute gap between the average level of income generated in the North and South will widen further in coming years. (Although the South accounts for 77 per cent of population, it generates well under 20 percent of world income).

However, the developing countries as a whole are likely to account for an increasing share of all incremental income. For most of the post-war years, with the exception of the 1980s, developing countries increased output two percentages faster than industrialised ones. If this differential growth were to resume and continue to 2000, about US\$30 of every extra US\$100 real income created would occur in the developing world. By 2020, the figure would be around US\$40, providing considerable new markets.

As the industrialised countries have historically exported surplus capital to the money-hungry economies of the South, these trends in the North will reinforce the need for the developing countries to mobilise more savings at home.

tion of these jobs will be in the informal sector. In many countries, the small, family enterprise, often operating quasi-legally at the margin of the formal economy, represents the most dynamic element of commercial, manufacturing and service activity.

Although governments have often regarded these activities with suspicion, political pragmatism is likely to foster a new approach. Jobs in the informal sector can be created more cheaply than in the

formal economy, where a high level of investment is required for every worker employed. Governments are likely to adopt policies to promote small-scale enterprise. Budgetary stringency will make it more difficult to increase the state payroll.

The search for work will intensify rural-urban migration. In the north, more than half the popu-

lic pensions, and reduce household savings because people tend to save during their working lives for their retirement.

A fall in savings and a rise in interest rates will, in turn, depress investment (at a time when more machines will be needed to replace the diminishing pool of workers) and eventually lower potential output in the north. One recent IMF study showed a rise in private consumption expenditure in West Germany and Japan, accompanied by a deterioration in their competitive position, a decline in their foreign trade surpluses and a weakening of their output performance by 2020.

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Palestinian students Facing an uncertain future

By Sald Al Ghazali

WHAT ARE West Bank high school graduates planning to do next year?

Rafed Shahriri of Tulkarm hopes to enroll in a Jordanian community college to study any subject he can. But his score of 91 per cent in last December's Jordanian-sponsored secondary exam, or tawjihi, should have easily qualified him for a university.

Maysa Muhammad Saleh of Ramallah, who earned an 88 on the exam, is trying to find secretarial training at a local commercial centre. Her plans to study physics hit an impasse.

Nasser Qashou of Tulkarm is working in his father's chicken shop. The Israeli military government, India and Pakistan.

Over 20,000 students in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have similar stories to tell. Since the Palestinians in the territories began their open revolt against the Israeli occupation in December 1987, they have found it almost impossible to pursue higher education. On one hand, the Israeli military closed all six universities and 14 community colleges in the territories on the grounds that they are "centres for violence". On the other, Israel's economic war against the population is limiting opportunities to study abroad.

Those who are able to seek education abroad also encounter resistance. The military government either issues students only one-month travel permits, after which they will have to return home or lose their residency rights, or demands that they stay abroad for a minimum of three years.

Israel's anti-Intifada measures have also taken their toll on the infrastructure of the Palestinian educational system. Some 250,000 students in more than 1,000 schools have already missed 14 months of classes over the past two years, due to the military's partial or total closures of the school system. On an average, students covered only half the required texts, according to Khalil Mahshi, principal of the Friends School in Ramallah. "Our schools witnessed a low standard of education," he said.

To compensate for the problems faced by Palestinian students, the Jordanian government modified the format of the tawjihi exam. The new exam included optional questions for the first time, and covered only half the usual material.

These changes had dramatic impact on students' scores. Over 12,000 Palestinian students, representing 86 per cent of the total student body, passed the exam in 1989, a 30 per cent increase over the previous year's performance. Some 1,640 students got over 90 per cent on the test. The scores were the highest since 1968.

However, educators cautioned that the results of the exam should not be taken at face value. "We should not deceive ourselves (about the exam)," said Mahshi.

Another reason for the inflated scores was cheating, which occurred sporadically in exam rooms around the West Bank.

Huda Barqawi, a teacher, said exam proctors did not even keep strict watch over one exam room in Jerusalem. But most of the cheating resulted from students' continued frustration at not being allowed to pursue their studies in a normal environment.

Mahshi attributed the cheating to the "general harsh circumstances and political atmosphere" prevailing during the Intifada.

The exams were also disrupted by military measures. Nablus remained under curfew during the exam period, and many students arrested by the Israeli army either missed the exam or lost study time. Bashar Hussein, a high school student, is a typical example. After spending six months in prison during the 1988 academic year, he finished the exam with a score of only 72 per cent.

Hundreds of other students faced the same predicament or were actually in prison when the exam was being given. School statistics indicate that 300 students failed even to show up for the exam. Some 50 also managed to pass the tawjihi from inside prison.

Despite these difficult conditions, passing the tawjihi is only part of the Palestinians' struggle for higher education. Local universities are offering underground programmes to counter the military closure orders, but according to an an-Najah University official these programmes can handle only 4,000 students.

Palestinian students are therefore forced to look to foreign universities, where it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure admission. Jordan offered West Bank students 256 places in its three universities, and 400 more in its community colleges. In addition, the delay caused by military closures meant that the most recent high school class graduated in January, five months after the beginning of the academic year at most Arab universities. And many fear that the political changes sweeping Eastern Europe will reduce the number of Palestinians allowed to study there.

The expense of studying abroad has also created obstacles for local students. Neiman Shahriri, a teacher in Fadiliya Secondary School and father of 12, is now supporting a son studying in Turkey and a daughter studying in Jordan. It is unlikely that another son, Rafed, will be able to study in a Jordanian community college, since Shahriri's monthly salary is only \$450.

"I will have to borrow money from friends and relatives to educate Rafed," he says. "I believe education is our safeguard for the future, but I can't solve my own problems just by believing in education."

The occupation has taken perhaps its heaviest toll on students' aspirations for education. Shahriri has noticed that many more students are quitting school entirely after the ninth grade, disenchanted with the prospects for further education. Fifty students

dropped out of Al-Fadiliya in 1988 alone. "They lost their desire to study. They had no motivation to continue their schooling," says Shahriri.

Muhammad Zuhdi Ghazaleh, director of the committee that supervised the tawjihi exams, agrees that the value of education has become endangered. "The situation is the worst we've ever experienced, it is the lowest point," he says. "There is no spirit of discipline to maintain the shape of the school infrastructure."

However, some Palestinian voices are calling for increased efforts to stop the deterioration of education in the occupied territories. "This is not the end of the world," remarked Mahshi. He encouraged students to do "some self-searching" to come up with alternatives to formal schooling.

Others advocate more direct solutions. Sari Nusseibeh, professor of philosophy at Bir Zeit University, favours a two-pronged approach whereby Palestinians would increase their demands that Israel reopen universities and organise an effective alternative education system. Local newspapers could publish material for students, while television and radio stations abroad could broadcast educational programmes. "We have much more to do," he said.

Nusseibeh believes that such programmes will have to be coordinated with the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in order to function smoothly. Noting that the leadership has not asked educators working with the government-run public schools to resign, he feels that such co-operation will not pose a problem since the UNLU also acknowledges the value of education. "It maintains a sense of responsibility and sometimes asks students to stop demonstrations and concentrate on their studies," he said.

Al Fajr weekly



Palestinian students are denied the basic right of learning as a form of "collective punishment" by the Israeli authorities

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Al Fajr weekly

Palestine and People

● THERE SEEMS to be loopholes left in a recent decision by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin regarding the expulsion of Palestinian families who do not possess Israeli-issued residency papers. Reports confirmed this week that the Israeli military expelled Hanan Abu Sneh, 22, of Hebron, and her child on the pretext that they overstayed their visitor's permits.

According to these reports, Hanan, a Palestinian living in Jordan, married her cousin Dirar in 1987 when she came to the West Bank for a visit. Dirar then applied for a family reunification permit for his wife but was twice denied. His newborn son, however, was registered on his Israeli-issued identity card, making him a resident of Hebron.

A spokesperson for the Israeli civil administration denied any knowledge of the expulsions.

● AWNI QATANI 47, of Gaza, has been denied a birth certificate and registration for his daughter, who was born 19 January, Qatani found out that the



Hardship cases in Gaza: One of the special hardship case families in Gaza Strip's beach camp is visited by an UNRWA social worker. Muhammad Jamil Saef, 33, used to work in an Israeli cement factory, but he developed chest and lung ailments. He is now deemed medically unfit to work while none of his seven children is of working age. (UNRWA photo)

reason the Israeli civil administration in the Gaza Strip refused to register her on her parents' identity cards was that he had named her "Intifada". There is no law that says that a family cannot give a child that name.

● ISRAELI ARMY refusenik Adam Keller was released from prison 1 March after spending 26 days in Adit Military prison for refusing to serve in the army for reasons of conscience. Keller went on hunger strike for 16

of those days to protest a decision to have him wear an army uniform while in prison.

● PALESTINIAN NATIONALISTS won a sweeping victory in elections for the Gaza Bar Association on 1 March, ceding only one of the seven seats in the association's leadership council to the Islamist group. Freih Abu Midein, the newly-elected chairman of the GBA announced that the election has put to rest all doubts about where sympathies lay in Gaza. "The election provided that the PLO's political line is gaining the support of the majority in the Strip," he said.

Earlier this year, nationalist candidates won 10 out of 11 seats in the Gaza Medical Association and four out of nine seats in the Gaza Engineers Association.

Midein said the main priority of the new GBA council would be improving services to Palestinian detainees. Gaza lawyers have defended detainees for free since the Intifada began in December 1987.

Insight

By
Dr Nabil Al-Sharif

A dream deferred

IS IT true that the dream of Arab unity has eluded us once again, and that this long-awaited goal has once more failed to materialise over the last few weeks when hopes were raised concerning an eminent rapprochement between Iraq and Syria?

Judging by the facts that have crystallised recently in inter-Arab relations, one may conclude that the thaw that was expected in the relations between the two countries has - to say the least - been put on hold for the time being.

The Jordanian Parliament should be given credit for trying to bring about this Arab dream of forging an alliance between the two countries. The important letter which was sent in the name of Jordan's Parliament to the leaders of Syria and Iraq not only expresses the Jordanian people's deep-seated desire for achieving Arab unity, but also reflects an enlightened awareness regarding the best methods of responding to the challenges that face our nation i.e. collective Arab stand and utmost co-ordination among our countries.

But the fact that our Parliament's responsible initiative has failed to materialise at this point should only prompt us to try again and again, because pan-Arab co-ordination (not to say unity) is our only fitting response to the dangers that face our nation. It is also still hoped that a new comprehensive sense of responsibility will ultimately prevail and put an end to this painful rift in the Arab stand.

The over-all global trend of reconciliation and co-ordination among nations and countries (that had so little in common) should spur us into burying our own differences - no matter how unbridgeable they may seem - and joining this universal march of regional and continental co-operation. In the emerging world of the nineties, there is simply no room for single admissions of countries.

The emerging dialogue will also be conducted among blocs. If our dream of unity has failed to materialise now, we still hope that we will live up to the expectations and rise up to the challenges before it is too late.

Faisal Al Hussein:
Israel will have to face realities

EDITOR'S NOTE: As the Israeli government debates proposals made by US Secretary of State James Baker on the peace process, specifically holding a dialogue with Palestinians in Cairo, Al Quds Arabic daily of Occupied Jerusalem conducted an interview with the Palestinian activist Mr Faisal Al Hussein. Following are excerpts from the interview:

Q- Is the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue going to take place soon and do you think the Israelis are ready for such a step?

A- Time is appropriate for holding such a dialogue especially in the light of changes in the rules of the international political game and the developments in Europe. Power is no longer measured in terms of the number of tanks and airplanes. It is more into the area of economic potentials. These developments give the Palestinian side strength and negatively affects the Israeli side. Therefore, there is some kind of balance between the two sides and the balance is leaning towards the Palestinian side more than any time before... we are getting stronger.

We are ready to sit at the negotiation table and to face the Israelis with confidence and with the feeling that we will not be cheated in these negotiations. But the main obstacles before negotiations are attributed to the political fabric in Israel under Shamir, who is incapable of taking any serious or historical decisions. These decisions will not be taken until this fabric is gone. For almost a year everyone in the occupied territories has been talking about elections in the territories but in reality they (the Israelis) are preparing for their own elections.

Q- What about the participation



Mr Faisal Al Hussein.

of deportees and citizens of Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation?

A- We consider every Palestinian outside (the territories), if he was a refugee from 1948 or 1967, a deportee. They are part of the Palestinian people and their participation in the Palestinian delegation is natural. Until now no names have been suggested but when they are it is only the PLO which will suggest them and not any other body. Palestinian policy is drawn in Tunis and not by editors of foreign or Israeli papers.

Q- What is the effect of changes in Eastern Europe on both Israel and the Palestinian issue?

A- Changes in Eastern Europe will definitely lead to more realistic trends inside Israel which can deal with reality in a way that will prepare for a just and lasting peace.

Q- What about the election proposal?

A- I talked to leaders of the Labour Party and said: You talk

about holding Palestinian elections and you know that with or without elections the representative of the Palestinian people is the PLO. The problem is not in the Palestinian side but in the Israeli side. You don't have a government capable of dealing decisively with the situation. In reality we are not talking about Palestinian elections but Israeli elections. And all this talk about plans and the Baker plan and the ten point plan and the Palestinian representation and the Egyptian role and the agenda... all these questions and suggestions should actually be directed towards Israel for it to change its political formula so as to become more realistic.

The conflict between Likud and Labour and the heated debates going on in the Israeli political arena lately, prove that the Palestinian issue is the cause of these debates and conflicts within these trends.

Before the Intifada it was not a priority for them. Now it is the other way around. (In the past) the Palestinian rejections were enough to foil any plan or project (for peace) but with the Intifada and the open policies of the PLO the Israelis were not given the opportunity to close the Palestinian file through Palestinian rejections. In addition, the Israelis are finding themselves in a position where they have to answer questions and these answers require them to debate and research... in the end they will have to face reality and face crises on their sides. All of this is a result of the Intifada.

Q- What is your comment on the decision to extend the closure of universities?

A- The closure of universities and educational institutions is a big crime against Palestinian youth. The Israeli authorities

have committed this crime because of their fear of what is going on inside the occupied territories. It is a sort of collective punishment which is prohibited internationally. There were pressures to re-open the universities and we hope the authorities will reverse their dangerous order so that these institutions will remain a beacon for education and freedom of thought.

Q- What about current economic conditions in the occupied areas?

A- Despite the decrease in the buying power of Palestinians and the pressures forced upon us, the Palestinian economy has succeeded in its attempt to cover a good part of its needs through local industries. This was at the expense of most luxuries, but I think the Palestinian people have managed to build most of the infrastructure of the Palestinian economy.

Q- Are there any real causes for optimism?

A- Personally, I am optimistic about the outcome of the political changes in Israel. They (the Israelis) are going to face real questions which need answers at these answers require them to take a stand. This has caused a radical right in Israel to rise and what we see today (of the inside the Likud is not a panic event... these new positions that Israel will eventually prepare for a new Israeli policy across the political map of Israel.

They have to respond to changes and to Palestinian national rights. There are increasing American pressures on Israel to cause a certain movement, but cannot define the limits of that movement and I don't know what will be enough to get us what we want.

Islam : an overestimated 'global threat'

By Sajid Rizvi
Special to The Star

LONDON - For more than a decade now 'Islamic fundamentalism' has preoccupied strategists and analysts worldwide, and in recent months it has been presented by pundits as the next potential threat to the world community, replacing the fast dissolving spectre of communism.

But the ease for Islamic fundamentalism as a global threat may have been overstated, says Professor Paul Wilkinson, while that for the forces of interdependence remains understated.

Wilkinson, director of the London-based Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism, said in an interview, "Islamic fundamentalism has been overestimated as a kind of global threat to stability. I believe the forces of interdependence, the economic imperative of co-operation between, for example, the oil-producer countries and the major consumer countries, between the highly industrialised hi-tech

countries and the medium-tech and low-tech countries, are such time a new nationalist wave rises and the linkages so developed that I do not really believe that fundamentalism will subvert those links."

He said he saw evidence of "strong forces of opinion" within Iran itself which favoured moderation and stronger links with the industrial world. By most current histories of the phenomenon, Islamic fundamentalism grew out of Iran's confrontation with the United States and became an expression of the dispossessed or frustrated groups in countries with Islamic populations - from the Soviet Union to Western Europe.

A more important ideological threat, in Professor Wilkinson's view, was posed by atavistic nationalism. "Nationalism can be a splendid sort of self-determination movement which is genuine, totally liberative and constructive," he said. But recent history, particularly European history, showed that it also has its dark side.

"It is so easy for national

groups to be led astray by extremists," said Wilkinson. Every time a new nationalist wave rises its head, he said, "my tendency is to ask the question which, I think, we should all be asking about some of the movements now voicing national grievances in Eastern Europe: Are you an amicable nationalism? Are you really seriously intending to co-operate internationally when you find your own voice, or are you really desiring to avenge some historical memory?"

The world cannot, he said, "cope with a revival of atavistic and destructive nationalism."

While he saw communism in retreat everywhere, including - "intellectually and morally" - in China, he found no major universalist ideology to match the apparent staying power of a liberal democratic theory.

The trouble is that liberal democratic theory with its capitalistic economic ideas has got stuck in the groove of national development with some regional progress in the European Com-

munity towards integration, but without any really developed international theory.

"The real challenge now is to develop a liberal democratic theory for the international system," he said. "What mechanism should we be constructing to bring about that level of freedom, of individual liberty and prosperity and well-being that we take for granted, for the world as a whole?"

In this transitional phase, he said, Islam emerged as a powerful movement but relatively less influential politically than many people assume.

"I don't believe that (Islamic) fundamentalism, although it is still very much alive and well, is going to be a powerful global challenge in the way that communism provided a global challenge to liberal democracy."

However, Wilkinson believes that a "mixture of fundamentalist militancy, with some backward looking nationalism, could be dangerous in parts of the Middle East."



Around Town



Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Jordan Chapter, held a fund-raising dinner Saturday evening to commemorate the 10th anniversary of ADC and to support the Intifada, at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

Deputising for Queen Noor was His Majesty King Hussein's Chief Political Advisor Mr Adnan Abu Odeh, who addressed an audience of about 50 members and supporters of ADC. The organisation's chair of work in organising Americans of Arab descent in the United States. He said ADC's priorities are now in establishing a lobby in the US congress and exposing the dangers to peace in the Middle East entailed in the Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to Israel and the occupied territories.

Also speaking at the event was ADC Deputy for the Middle East Mr Wafa Nasr and president of the Jordan Chapter Mr Nidal Sukhtian.

Among those attending the fund raiser were Mr and Mrs Ali Maugo, Mr and Mrs Issa Raimuni, Mr and Mrs Jaafar Toukan, Mr and Mrs Zaki Al Ayoubi, Mrs Mahmoud al-Sherif, Miss Sawzan Ojilani, Mr and Mrs Osama El-Sherif, Mrs Rula Khoury, Dr Taher Kanaan, Mr and Mrs Bassem Malhas and Miss Deemu Sukhtian.



Mr Agel Biltaji

Royal Jordanian's Executive Vice President for Customer Services Mr Agel Biltaji was elected recently as deputy for the Intifada Food Cater Association (ISCA) in its meetings in Stockholm, Sweden, where the association held its tenth annual convention. One hundred and fifty representatives from 79 airline companies, 110 aircraft catering companies and 158 catering manufacturing companies attended the meeting.

The convention was opened by Prince Bertil Berdardot. Also speaking were Mr Jan Carlzon Executive Manager of Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) and the convention's chairman Mr Evar Samren.

A SERIES of promotions and refreshments took place at the Amman Plaza Hotel this week. Mr. Hisham Al Akker was replaced by Mr. Taher Abdul Khader Al Akker as room division manager. Mr. Seoud's former position as front office manager was filled by Mr. Fuad Ahmed Al Azab who was promoted from assistant front office manager. The Plaza takes pride in the fact that 99 per cent of its employees are Jordanians.



Fuad Al-Azab (left) and Taher Abu El-Seoud

The association's board of directors comprising 16 members will hold its second convention for this year in Petra in June.

The second in a continuing series of senior level meetings was held in Amman on Tuesday, 6 March, focusing on possible ways to improve the financial environment in the Kingdom.

The discussion was led by Dr Ali H. Magableh, of the Faculty of Economics in the Department of Banking and Finance at Yarmouk University. Dr Magableh analysed "The economic dimensions of foreign exchange rate fluctuations on Jordan", the audience participated with numerous comments and questions.

The meeting, followed by dinner served in the Al Waha Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel, was sponsored by the Private Services Development Project (PSDP) in co-operation with the Jordanian Association of Certified Public Accountants. PSDP is under the direction of the Ministry of Planning, funded by USAID, and implemented by the international professional service firm of Deloitte & Touche.

The evening concluded with remarks by Mr Samih T. Darwazah, Chairman of the Jordan Traders Association and General Manager of Al Hikma Pharmaceuticals. Mr Darwazah presented his experience in promoting exports and the problems he has faced regarding the fluctuation of exchange rates, particularly over the past two years.

Thomas S. Shilen, Jr., Accounting/Auditing Sector Director of PSDP, served as host of the evening's programme. He expressed great satisfaction with the enthusiastic response of all concerned, and looked forward to the next meeting in this series to be held in the near future. Osama G. Ghannoum, Jordanian counterpart in PSDP's Marketing Sector, introduced Mr Darwazah, and closed the meeting.

Congratulations!! Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements... Drop us a line and send a photo, we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

Scrapbook

Fate and Character

THE FIRST time I was confronted with the question of what makes what fate or character was during an English literature class about six years ago. I was studying Joseph Conrad's fascinating novel, "Lord Jim" when our professor asked each of the students to state his views on this life-long issue. I remember that I strongly argued that it is the individual who has the one and ultimate say on his future. I dismissed as escapism the argument that man is so vulnerable and helpless before fate. "If you plant you harvest," I then insisted I said that nothing can stand in the way of determination and the will of an individual who plays his cards right.

Six years and much more real experience in life later, I look back at this attitude of mine with both sadness and cynicism. "How naive I used to be," I tell myself whenever I recover from the many involuntary journeys into the past that I always find myself setting out trying to escape the terrible realities around me.

I now dismiss as platonic and indeed childish even the thought that man can do anything in the face of fate and the many incomprehensible and quite often conspicuous yet untouchable forces that control this universe.

You don't have to be the most qualified in a group of doctors who apply for work at the Ministry of Health to get a job. Fate or somebody's high ranking cousin could stand between you and the employment opportunity that you have long waited for and worked to get.

And you don't have to be a brilliant student to get a scholarship from the Ministry of Education. A close relative can change all the rules to make sure you are sent to the best university even if hundreds of students have thought that they can beat you and their fate to the scholarship by meeting the announced criteria of scoring a higher grade.

And you just have to be an Arab to believe that what I'm saying is true, and that no matter how hard you work as an individual you cannot get over this feeling of defeat and insult that we all feel as young members of this nation. I am sure many would argue that it is the untouchable forces and not fate that have bestowed this disgusting feeling upon us, but isn't it our fate that our lives have to be run by those forces, or is it?

Abdullah Abu Muddein

Conservatory and the British Council in Amman presented the famous British pianist John Clegg in recital at 8 pm on Monday 5th March at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The recital included works by Mozart, Fauré, Liszt and Rachmaninoff, in addition to British composers Edward Elgar and MacDowell (1861-1908) and Alan Rawsthorne (1905-1971).

Mr Clegg is Jordan's most regular musical visitor from the United Kingdom. He first played in Amman in 1969.

Based at Lancaster University, he devoted his time between teaching mathematics and the no less rigorous demands of a remarkable series of concert-tours across the world, playing both solo works and concertos.

Mr Clegg studied music with the distinguished teacher, the late Herbert Fryer, and after three years' study at Jesus College, Cambridge, gave his first London recital in 1951.

Since then he has, in addition to giving numerous concerts in the United Kingdom, appeared in many countries worldwide. Frequent tours to the Middle East, the Far East and Europe are interspersed with visits to Canada, Mexico, South America and Australia.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein

will inaugurate Monday 19 March the Apple Expo, 90, which will take place at the Marriott Hotel. This third annual event is organised by Ideal Systems to show latest software in the personal computer industry. Apple Macintosh's portable computer will make its debut in Jordan as well as newly-developed software.

Foreign software companies will participate in the four-day event such as Microsoft, Oracle, Letraset and famous Arab software developers. The exposition will end on 22 March.

Artist Mahmoud Taha resigned last week as president of the Jordan Plastic Arts Association.

The association held its administrative elections last week and elected Mr Ismael Nahr.

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Dr Asaad Abdul Ruhman, Director General of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation returned home on Saturday 3rd March after a week-long tour that took him to Kuwait and Riyadh to promote scientific and cultural activities.

The Sphinx: A victim of its own success

By Deborah Pugh

CAIRO - After years of argument over the future of the Pyramids and what to do about damage to the Sphinx in particular, the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation (EAO) has embarked on a new renovation programme. This has coincided with the recent inauguration of a sewage draining scheme for the Pyramids area, the first practical step to protect the 4,800-year-old Sphinx from rising sewage water.

The magnificent limestone figure, on the outskirts of Cairo, and which said to depict the Pharaoh Chephren, has been deteriorating ever since a protective covering of sand was removed from its 240-foot high body in the 1920s. Its exposure took place just as rapid industrial, agricultural and tourism development began in Egypt. Each sector has added to the physical pressures on Egypt's heritage of Pharaonic, Roman, Christian and Islamic monuments.

The sewage draining scheme is aimed at cleaning up the squalid settlement at Nazlet Essiman, which has mushroomed over the last decade in the shadow of the Pyramids, drawn by the dollars of the thousands of tourists who arrive daily in their huge tour buses. Waste water from the village is absorbed by the porous limestone from which the Sphinx is carved and that eventually crumbles the rock.

Apart from the rising water table and the polluting effect of the tour buses, the settlement's sewage and fires generate "chemical pollutants three times greater than the limit permitted in archaeological areas", says Dr Fekri Hassan, an archaeologist heading the panel of experts studying the area's problems.

Hassan has a vision of the Pyramids terrain as a "sanctuary". But his vision is bitterly opposed by the commercial interests it would curb. Much of the squalid settlement would be removed, including the trashy shops selling "authentic" Pharaonic souvenirs. The huge tour buses belching fumes would be banned from the immediate vicinity and replaced with an electric cart shuttle service.

The plan has generated much controversy but the Minister of Culture, Farouk Hosni, who is responsible for Egypt's antiquities, appears set to back it.

Specialists recognise that it is not enough to protect only the immediate environment of the Sphinx: Air pollution in Cairo is so intense that a wide-ranging programme is required. The government is already committed to limit pollution by installing filters on the three state cement factories located only a few miles from the Giza plateau on which the Sphinx crouches. These factories spew out a staggering 2,000 tonnes of cement dust daily.

But no action has been taken to reduce the car pollution plaguing the health of 12 million Cairenes as well as scouring the surfaces of the city's historic buildings.

The high-sulphur petrol used by the city's one million cars emit sulphuric and nitric emissions which attack the surface of the Sphinx and other monuments, producing a thin crust, says Dr El Goresy, an Egyptian scientist. "With the first sand storm, these thin layers are sand-blasted and a fresh surface becomes exposed."

This constant removal of the surface has led to a loss of detail of the Sphinx's features which will soon be impossible to restore. Work will begin soon on bonding the cracks which give rise to serious concern, especially since part of a shoulder fell off two years ago, prompting the dismissal of the then chairman of the EAO.

Its new head, Professor Sayed Tewfiq, told journalists in Cairo recently that work was going ahead on the Sphinx. He said the situation was critical and that renovations had started with the aim of restoring the monument to its 1962 condition. UNESCO and the Getty Conservation Institute are providing help.

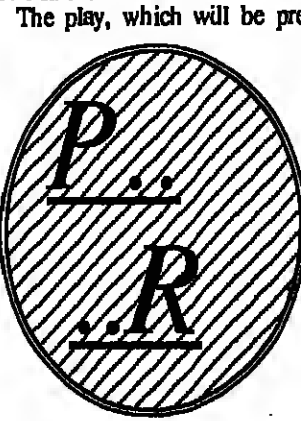
Tewfiq's urgency in proceeding with the restoration of the Sphinx, which is still suffering from former hasty interventions, is in sharp contrast with the World Bank's difficulty in getting EAO to respond over the restoration of four Pharaonic tombs suffering from the effects of Egypt's outstanding success in encouraging tourists to visit historic sites.

At the end of last year, despite four extensions of the deadlines for a restoration loan, the EAO lost over US\$5 million from the bank (to have been repaid over 40 years at 0.25 per cent interest) earmarked for works to protect these exquisite and delicate tombs.

Tewfiq had dismissed the elegant prototype proposed by the Swedes, for the protection of the murals of the Tomb of Nakht, as being too "like a boutique". The EAO failed, however, to come up with an alternative plan during the decade in which the credit was available.

Tourism is currently Egypt's number two foreign currency earner, generating over US\$2 billion in 1989. Having heavily backed Egypt's tourist industry, the World Bank is nervously alert to the fact that an Egypt with decayed antiquities will attract few tourists. (PANOS)

REHEARSALS ARE under way for the puppet production "Sandouq Jaddati: Hikayat" (Tales from My Grandmother's chest), which will be shown to the public in 14 performances, spread over nine days, starting 17 March.



Canada, Royal Jordanian Airlines conduct aviation course

A SECOND three-week course on Management of Airline Commercial Services and Computer Applications started on 3 March in Amman. The first course, which met with resounding success, was held in Amman in March 1989.

The course, organised by the Montreal-based International Aviation Management Training Institute (IAMTI), is presented in association with Royal Jordanian Airlines.

The objective of the course is to provide airline managers with the skills and knowledge in the use of the personal desk-top computer as a cost effective management tool and its specific applications in the airline industry.

The course is designed for managers in the airline industry, who are not computer specialists, and who have a requirement for increased knowledge in the use of computer technology in the areas of strategic marketing and commercial services. It covers such areas as advanced management concepts and applications, specialised applications in airlines market research and forecasting, route planning, payload control, yield management, product design, passenger and cargo services and fleet planning.

The course is attended by 27 participants from 14 different countries, namely: Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Czechoslovakia, Dubai, India, Jordan, Kuwait, Mozambique, Poland, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania and Yemen Democratic Republic.

WHAT'S on at the Marriott

Wednesdays: Steak special in the newly reopened Al Walima Restaurant.

Thursdays: Mexican Night in Al Mansaf restaurant. Everyone's favourite Mexican dishes from chile con carne to burritos and fajitas, etc.

Saturdays: Chinese Night at Al Mansaf.

Sundays: The best of Italy: the Marriott's special Italian buffet with fresh homemade pasta.

Fresh Express: Every weekday at lunchtime, Al Mansaf restaurant features a special lunch buffet for the executive on the go: lunch will be prepared a la minute, so you don't have to wait, and lunch hasn't been waiting for you! Al Mansaf: noon-3:30 pm, every weekday.

Exhibitions

Seven Iraqi Artists: Shaker Hassana Al Saki, Salem Al Dabagh, Rafe' Al Nasiri, Sadi Al Kabi, Ali Taleb, Mohammed Mahruddin and Ismail Fatab, present their paintings at the Abdel Hamid Shoman Foundation hall. The exhibit continues until 5 April. Open daily from 10 am to 5 pm, except Fridays.

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Ra'dla Zaid and Her Royal Highness Princess Majida Ra'dla an art exhibition by artist Hisham Mohammad Edghaim will open Monday 12 March at the Royal Cultural Centre. The exhibition will run until 17 March.

sent by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture, is written, designed, produced and performed by Wafa Qusous, who will be assisted in manipulating the puppets by Munir Qaddoumi, and Mohammad Al Amr.

The production is an education play that seeks to provoke the imagination of the audience to explain the elaborate embroidery which decorates Jordanian and Palestinian national dresses, in the hope that this will deepen the respect for and pride in our heritage.

In addition to the public performances, to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre's Studio Theater, there will be 18 morning performances in schools throughout the Greater Amman area.

Agenda

Films

The British Council presents the feature film "Heavenly Pursuits", Wednesday 14 March at 6:00 pm.

The French Cultural Centre presents the feature film "Le Ciel est a Vous" starring Madeleine Renaud, Monday 12 March at 8:00 pm.

The Goethe Institute presents the video film "Stella", starring Dietlinde Turan and Judy Winter. Tuesday 13 March at 8:00 pm.

The American Center presents the feature film "All About Eve" starring Betty Davis. Thursday 8 March and Sunday 11 March, at 7:00 pm.

Lectures

The YWCA Cultural Committee of Amman presents Dr Nasri Khoury who will lecture on "Medical Implications of Israeli Practices in Palestine", Saturday 10 March at 7:00 pm at YWCA in Amman.

Mr Philippe Bec will give a lecture on "De Gaulle, L'homme du 18 Juin" at the French Cultural Centre. Tuesday 13 March at 6:00 pm.

Goethe Institute presents Dr Michael Meinecke who will speak on "Muslim Architecture of the Hawraa and Hamman Manjak at Busra", Saturday 10 March at 8:00 pm.

ACOR presents Dr Alistair Northedge in a lecture on his survey and excavations at Samarra, Iraq, Sunday 11 March at 7:00 pm.

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Recipe

Chicken parfait with chicken liver and mushrooms

Parfait Des Volaille Aux Foies De Volaille Et Cèpes
As prepared by Carl Zeannuns head chef at Amra Forum Hotel, Amman.

Ingredients

300G/11OZ lean chicken
Pate salt and white pepper
Generous pinch of ground ginger
Generous pinch of cardamom
1 Egg white, lightly beaten
75G/3OZ flour panada
350ML/12FL OZ whipped cream
150G/5OZ chicken livers
150G/5OZ mushrooms, washed
1-2 tablespoon oil
Butter for greasing
Madelra aspic
3 tablespoons chopped parsley
1-Litre/1 3/4 pint pale mould

Method:

Cut the chicken in to strips, sprinkle with the salt, pepper and spices and chill for at least 2-3 hours. Mince twice through the finest blade of the mincer. Over ice, first beat in the light beaten egg white and then gradually add the sieved panada. Push the mixture through a sieve and beat in the whipped cream a spoonful at a time.

Remove all skin and blood vessels from the chicken livers, and cut into small pieces. Dice the mushrooms. Quickly fry the chicken livers and mushrooms separately in hot oil, drain and fold into the forcemeat. Line the buttered mould with roasting film, add the forcemeat and smooth the top. Fold the excess film over the forcemeat, cover the mould and cook, in a water bath, for about 40 minutes, with water at a gentle simmer. When cool turn out the parfait, carefully remove the film, cover with madelra aspic, sprinkle well with parsley and cover again with madelra aspic. Leave in the refrigerator to set and then arrange over a bed of diced madelra aspic.

Wedlock

Iman Qustandi Saba to Samir Jubran Salah.
Ghadeer Mubammad to Samir Sarsour.
Taghreed Ayoub Sabounneh to Yousef Elias Batarfeh.
Samleh Odeh Al Hourani to Wael Mifad Safadi.
Nawal Nawaf Sheshin to Rashed Rashed Al Khalib.

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8 MARCH 1990

South Africa's tentative new dawn

By Maggie James
Special to the Star

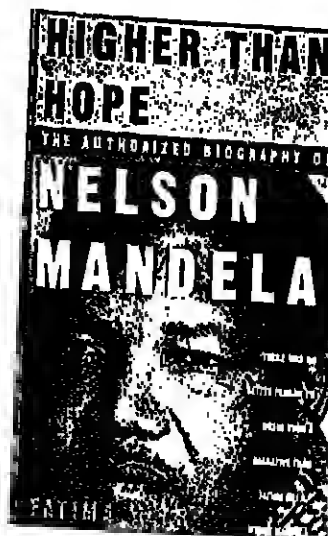
LONDON—President F.W. de Klerk of South Africa walks a precarious political tightrope. By releasing Nelson Mandela and lifting the ban on the outlawed African National Congress and the South African Communist Party he has gratified the majority black population of the country. But the president has to assuage the fears of many white South Africans and maintain their confidence in his policies towards racial equality. It is the whites who have absolute power in the country and own 87 per cent of the land. The hard-line right-wingers regard him as a traitor for his actions.

Who can blame the released black people of South Africa for regarding Nelson Mandela as a saviour? Despite 27 years of incarceration, he has remained a man of stature and dignity with an indomitable spirit. Higher Than Hope, written by Fatima Meer and published by Hamish Hamilton, is an absorbing biography of the man on whom many of the aspirations of the black people lay, and confirms the image of an amazingly determined and resilient man.

Durban-born Fatima Meer and her husband have been close friends of the Mandels for many years. She is a sociology professor at the University of Natal and has held a persistent stand against apartheid - in 1981 she was detained without trial for five months with Winnie Mandela. It was at Nelson Mandela's instigation that the biography was written and she admits: "At best it is my interpretation of him. I hope that a biography based on such exhaustive interviews will be written one day." Nevertheless, it is a very detailed account of the life of this unique man - and the people in his sphere - and a moving evocation of a lifetime of persecution suffered by Mandela, his family, friends and colleagues.

Rising in the ranks of the ANC, which he joined in 1944, Nelson Mandela became a prominent activist against the South African system. He qualified as a lawyer and formed a partnership with Oliver Tambo. They treated their legal work as part time; resistance and revolution were their full-time vocation.

Fatima Meer recalls that the year 1960 consolidated the parting of the ways between black and white in a way that no single



year has done in the history of South Africa. "Sharpeville," she says, "brought to a head black agony and white tyranny. For Nelson it encapsulated his life. Sharpeville was the beginning of the end of his personal, physical freedom in the country." At Sharpeville, near Cape Town, the police opened fire on 5,000 peaceful black protesters - 69 were killed and 180 wounded.

"The world was horrified by the massacre," recounts the author. "In South Africa the situation was getting out of control;

Commerce and Industry, fearful for their survival, called for reforms, but the Verwoerdian Government was the toughest the Nationalists would produce. It was convinced it could ride the tiger."

In 1961, Mandela was exonerated from a charge of treason - after trial that had lasted for five years. Subsequently, he was to disappear and carry on his activities "underground." Nelson planned a strategy whereby he would keep the government constantly engaged but himself disguised, secret and inaccessible. The black public thrilled at the adventure that Mandela created. For Nelson there was anxiety, loneliness and a change of bed - when there was one - practically every night. There were moments when he wondered why he had chosen the path he had, and the answer was always the same. He had not chosen the path, the path had chosen him," says Fatima Meer.

Imprisoned in 1962, it was in the following year that Mandela and other prominent leaders in the ANC were brought to trial, charged with sabotage and attempting to overthrow the state. At the end of what became known as the Rivonia Trial, in

1964, Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment.

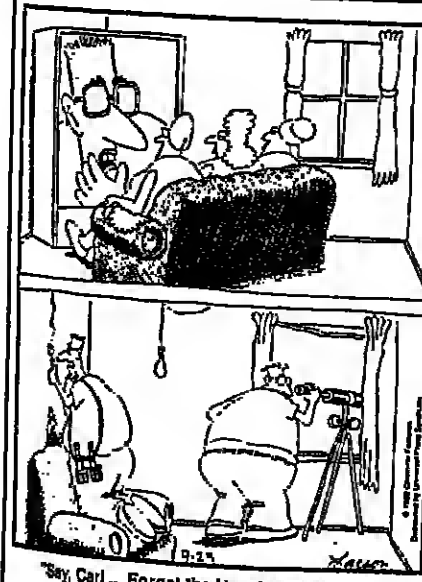
Fatima Meer's book highlights the courage of Winnie Mandela. "Mandela's imprisonment in 1962 made the local headlines, but not the international. As the 1960s closed so the memory of Mandela dimmed, leaving Winnie very much to her own resources," she reveals. "For Winnie, survival without Nelson became possible only by surviving like him and she threw herself into political activity."

Shortly after his release from prison Nelson Mandela reiterated what he said at his trial in 1964: "During my lifetime I have dedicated my life to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for, and to see realised. But, if need be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

HIGHER THAN HOPE A biography of Nelson Mandela. Fatima Meer, Hamish Hamilton. Hardback. £15.99. pp429.

The Far Side

By GARY LARSON



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Programmes of Jordan Television from 10 to 16 March

ENGLISH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

8:30 - Anne McGuire, "Soft Hearted Annie": Annie's new administrative position is tested when she is faced with firing Rita, a long term, though incompetent employee. Her soft heart leads her to an alternate solution but her plan backfires and puts her own job in jeopardy.

9:00 - Good Evening Jordan, The Arabic Coffee: A documentary spotlighting some of the instruments of hospitality, deep rooted in Jordanian culture.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - Feature Film, The Big Black Pill, starring Robert Black: A touristic trail lures murder to corruption in high places. When he becomes an unwitting murder suspect, private eye Joe dancer trends a dangerous path as he uncovers corruption and disgrace in a powerful political family.

SUNDAY

8:30 - Who's the Boss, "Sleep Talk, Sweet Talk": Sleep-talking embarrasses Angela... and Sweet-talking helps her overcome that embarrassment.

9:10 - Documentary: Red Dynasty. In 1989 tanks entered Tiananmen Square in Peking to quell a popular uprising against the communists. This same square witnessed the birth of the People's Republic.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - A mini-series.

MONDAY

8:30 - Eripty Nest: A story of a dedicated physician and his efforts to save life.

9:10 - A Tale of Two Cities.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - Midnight Caller, "Take Back The Street": Jack Kellian, on the Midnight Caller, mounts a campaign against drugs and traffickers.

TUESDAY

8:30 - Mr. Belvedere.

9:10 - Goya, Ep 3 "Cayetan": The continuing story of the Spanish master painter, Goya. This episode also focuses on the bloody period of Spanish history in the 18th century.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - Hunter, "Shield of Honour": Hunter is called upon to handle administrative problems in the office, and chases a murderer, all at one and the same time.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 - The Nut House, "My Man Tarkington": A new kind of management takes over at the Nut House, and the winds of change have an immediate negative effect on the staff.

9:10 - Panorama, "Mandela is Free": This episode tries to answer the difficult question. Can majority rule (Democracy) work in South Africa.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - Final Run, Ep 4: In this episode, Jeff discovers that Danny has assumed a new personality, a new passport... and plans to leave for Brazil.

THURSDAY

8:30 - A Different World: The continuing adventures of Dwayne, who invites his girlfriends to a cozy sitting... have the surprise of his life!

9:10 - Basketball.



"Women of San Quentin", feature film Thursday at 10:20

10:00 News in English.

10:20 - Movie of the week, Women of San Quentin (Movie for Television), starring Stella Stevens Debbie Allen: Based on a true story, "Women of San Quentin" is a powerful, dramatic account of the emotional and physical stress faced by an elite contingent of female guards employed at San Quentin Prison in California where the all-male population numbers more than 3,000 convicts.

FRIDAY

8:30 - Coach: This episode focuses on the optimistic approach one should have towards life.

9:10 - Thirtysomething, "New Job": Hope competes with Michael's new job for his attention after the miscarriage of their baby.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - The Fremantle Conspiracy: John Boyle O'Reilly is the brilliant young soldier of Her Majesty's 10th Hussars. Refusing to kill innocent people, he finds himself convicted of treason for being in league with the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He and his companions are sent to Western Australia. After making a brilliant escape, O'Reilly vows to return to liberate the Fenians and be reunited with the woman he loves.

FRIDAY

6:00 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: A game show programme.

6:30 - L'Appart: A drama series.

7:00 - News in French.

7:15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: A local magazine presented by Saleh Madi, featuring local current affairs.

WEDNESDAY

6:00 - Aventures voyages: A documentary programme.

7:00 - News in French.

7:15 - French varieties.

THURSDAY

6:00 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: A game show programme.

6:30 - Marie Antoinette: A television film.

7:00 - News in French.

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Hollywood Stars speak

Dean Stockwell Making a return



EDITOR'S NOTE: Dean Stockwell has had the strangest of Hollywood careers. A child star in the 1940s, he had brief success as a young man, then fell into a long decline "when I was barely able to keep alive." In 1982 he began playing character parts, resulting in an Academy Award nomination for "Married to the Mob" last year. Now he is busier than he has ever been.

Dean's father was a well-known performer who sang the voice of the prince in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Dean started acting at 6, appeared with Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly in "Anchors Aweigh" and with Gregory Peck in "Gentleman's Agreement." As a young man he did well in "Compulsion," "Sons and Lovers" and "Long Day's Journey into Night." Then the jobs stopped coming, and he fell into a hippie life style, dropping out for drugs and communism. In 1980 he returned to his career. After a rough period, he started working in films like "Duna," "Blue Velvet" and "Tucker".

Q: You've been around a while. You've seen Oscars year after year. Do they have any special connotation to you? Is it something every actor should aspire to?

A: They apparently have a connotation to people of all walks of life, not only in this country which is the home of motion pictures but virtually all over the world. This is something that gets into the inexpressible range. The only way to explain that might be that for one reason or another, this image of the Oscar has become like an arch type of the unconscious. Its recognition is so out of proportion to its importance in the real world that it's become almost mythic.

It does have connotations for literally millions and millions of people. Therefore, I think we can safely assume it has some connotations to me because I am an actor in closer proximity to the phenomenon than someone working on Chevrolets in Detroit. I don't, however, think it's something that actors of quality necessarily aspire to. I certainly never have. I've always thought if that happened to me it would be just something phenomenally wonderful that I would appreciate very deeply and consider, and no question about it... a real honor. But to aspire to it, that can't help your work in whatever particular project you're working on. If you're approaching a role, you can't be thinking about winning an Oscar. You have to think about doing the best job you can do.

Q: Your immediate feelings when you first heard that you had been nominated?

A: Well, I felt very, very good. I keep struggling for some succinct analogy when I'm asked this and I can't really find it. It's almost a similar feeling when you have the flu and you taste that first spoonful of hot chicken soup. Something like that. You know it's something very good and very substantial. You're just really glad to have it. You don't know if you deserve it but it's pretty neat.

Q: You did have some other recognition.

A: Yes, the New York Critics Award was something like six weeks prior to the announcement of the Academy Award nominations, and a week after that the National Critics Award. Then people started talking about this. So it wasn't a total surprise. I myself was thinking "Gee, this is a possibility." Well, I kept saying "It's not going to happen" and so on and so forth. But I was aware it was a real possibility. And then when I found out that in fact I had been nominated, I was really knocked over by it.

Q: You've been in and around this town all your life.

A: Yeah.

Q: There are various legends on how devastating it is to grow up in Hollywood. Some people are hurt by it permanently. What's your feeling about that?

A: My feeling about it is to paraphrase your question. You've said that there have been legends about this. The only reason that there are legends about it is because this is a very unique business - motion pictures, television and the theater. And there is something very mysterious about it. But there are children who find that they are going to work all during their childhood years in totally other forms of business, work, work, work. It's different than a childhood spent entirely free to play with the imagination just completely free to enjoy childhood. In the motion picture business it's the same thing: It's work, work, work, work. And you don't have that other freedom.

Q: You peaked very early in your career. What happens when the party's over? How do you adjust to the bright lights no longer being on you?

A: Well, it's not so much how you adjust when the bright lights are not on you. It's how you adjust when they are on you. When they are not on you, it's life. When they are on you, it's a little bit weird. That takes a trickier thing to adjust to. You've probably witnessed a lot of yourself. You've probably interviewed and seen interviewed a lot of people who have become popular and hot, and didn't know what to do with it, couldn't handle it and abused it. It goes away quickly. The adjustment is really when the attention is on you.

Q: The last two, three years you've been working almost steadily. A: It seems. It hasn't been that steady. If you have two pictures in the last year, two pictures that get a lot of attention, it just seems like you're working all the time. I've had three or four pictures in the last three or four years that have gotten a lot of attention. You can't do eight pictures in a year. And if they're all bombs, you can't do as a duck.

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Tarasanta Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Welbeldi, mass in Italian every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation: (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541

Church of the Redeemer: Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383

Armanun Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church: (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751

Amman International Church: (Interdenominational) meets at 9:00 a.m. in the hall of the Shmeisani, Tel. 827981

Church of the Good Shepherd: (Evangelical Lutheran) Um As-Summaq Tel. 811295

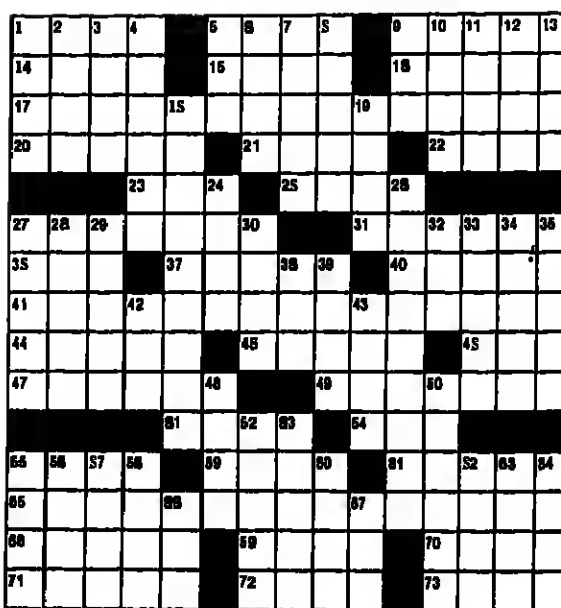
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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Colorless
- 5 Headliner
- 9 Inert gas
- 14 New Haven campus
- 15 Infinitesimal amount
- 16 Fish net
- 17 Understanding
- 20 Actress
- 21 Snake — (bury)
- 22 Encounter
- 23 Cavalier base
- 25 Page
- 27 Lack
- 31 Enlarge
- 36 Leading gp.
- 37 Shrike
- 40 Taboo

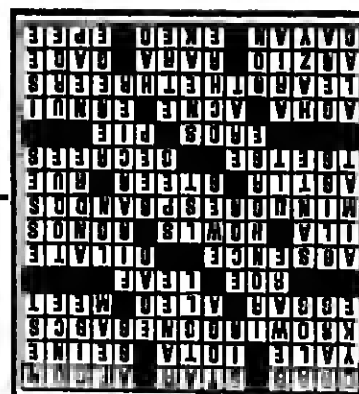


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DOWN

- 1 Love: var.
- 2 Paired
- 3 Like a bump on —
- 4 Take heed
- 5 Beckside
- 6 Forum garb
- 7 Coral island
- 9 Sars waaler
- 10 Donkey
- 11 Paper quantity
- 12 Taut
- 13 Formerly
- 14 Cozy home
- 15 Oldtime locomotive
- 19 Mild oath
- 24 Sch. subj.
- 26 Wall St. bank
- 27 Aspire to
- 28 Ecstasy
- 29 A vote — (Fr. toast)
- 30 Bleat
- 32 Actor Chenay
- 33 Muelian
- 34 Previn
- 35 Stocking cap
- 36 Double ourvase
- 38 WWII craft
- 42 Murad
- 43 Morse code symbol
- 44 Lask slowly
- 46 Part of QED
- 50 Go back on a promise
- 52 Yellow pigment: var.
- 53 Be stealthy
- 55 "When I was —"
- 56 — Rowlands
- 57 Indistinct
- 58 Dive's tort
- 60 Reason d' —
- 62 — tide
- 63 Abel
- 64 It's obvious
- 66 Sins qua —
- 67 Possessed

Solution



♣ Jordan Bridge ♠

By Ghassan Ghanem

Bid Simply Play Boldly

HERE IS a hand I always admired, you, North, holding this monster, open 1♠ starting a marathon auction:

- ♠ A
♥ A93
♦ AQJ4
♣ AQ965

(N)	(E)	(S)	(W)
1♠	1♠	D	2♠
3♠	P	4♥	P
4♠	P	4N	P
6♥	6♠	P	P
7♥	P	P	D

Partner double of 1♠ is a negative double showing 4 cards of hearts with more than seven points or 5+ cards with 7 to 9 points, west being not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents tries to put more pressure to disturb your dialogue, but not with this hand, you bid 3♠ forcing and notrump probe, partner denies a spade stopper and guarantees 5 cards of heart, now you know that she has less than 10 points otherwise she would bid 2♥ over 1♠ directly, her points should be king and queen of hearts and one of the minor suit kings since he does not have any spade points.

You start cue bidding and partner bids 4N showing none or 2 of the 3 top honours of the agreed heart suit confirming what you already

deduced, over your 6♥, being robber out of your best spot you bid 7♥ counting on so many chances and West closes the auction with penalty double and leads the ♠10.

Now move to the declarer seat holding:

- ♠ 32
♥ KQ732
♦ 8542
♣ K8

On the second trick you play a small heart to your king nothing with interest the drop of the ♥10 from East, play the hand before you go on.

If you played in the Amman Festival 1988 you may remember this hand from the second mixed session, Sorene Barakat finessed the ♥9 without hesitation, cashed the ♥A and returned to her hand by the ♠K to draw West's last trump, again she finessed the ♦J, cashed ♠A and ♠Q and ruffed a club to establish the last one and repeat the diamond finesse for her thirteenth trick.

Clues are simple, regarding the spade finesse the double was highly informative in addition in the existence of the spade single which probably indicates a heart single and the rule of restricted choices, regarding the diamond finesse, West cannot find a raise to 2♦ without the diamond king.

A simple and natural auction that depends on logical conventions is always highly informative, and analysis of all positive and negative inferences led to a successful dummy play.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March 19 April) - Making arrangements for a meeting will take more time than you anticipated. Do not despair! Your attention to detail will pay off handsomely. Limit the amount you spend on luxuries. Team up with an old friend if thinking of starting a new business. A winter vacation brings both romance and good luck. Be more discreet about your private life. Avoid those who gossip.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May) - Someone attractive issues a last-minute invitation. Accept, even if you must change plans. Your way with words could help you earn extra money this month. Put your thoughts on paper. Be more flexible when dealing with family members and they will respond in a heartwarming way. Your ability to make quick decisions gives you a huge advantage in business. Others follow your lead.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June) - Socialising will prove very rewarding this week. Do not spend too much time alone. Take extra pains with your appearance and an attractive newcomer will find you irresistible. You are making a lot of changes in your personal life now. Your mate is your strongest ally. Express your creativity in profitable ways. A friend becomes a romantic partner. Share a secret.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July) - An idea becomes so vivid that you draw it instead of describing it in words. Your heightened artistic awareness extends to your personal appearance. Go ahead and update your wardrobe and hairstyle. Your loyalty pays off handsomely. Someone comes to your aid just when you are about to throw in the towel. Plan an evening out with close friends. Wear something glamorous to a social affair.

LEO (23 July - 22 Aug.) - Hide your frustration at being given little jobs. Come evening, you will have a wonderful time! An invitation opens important new doors. Move forward with confidence. Put other people at ease. An exchange of ideas proves both exciting and constructive. You gain new insights from reading a newspaper article. An old friend asks a special favour; grant it. Your generosity wins you admirers.

VIRGO (23 Aug - 22 Sept) - Be extra careful when handling other people's money. Someone from your past reappears, bringing back vivid memories of a never-forgotten romance. Go slow. Limit everyday spending. Follow through on a project that is close to your heart; it has an excellent chance of succeeding. Do not give your ideas away for free. Romance has you walking on air.

LIBRA (23 Sept. - 22 Oct.) - Someone or something very exotic will come your way. Do not be surprised if you have to pay for your fun. Bend over backward to let others take the lead. Tension lightens when secrets are revealed. A long-time dream can come true if you play your cards right. An older person figures prominently in your business or personal affairs. Romance heats up.

SCORPIO (23 Oct. - 21 Nov.) - Someone who asks for your advice regarding a tricky situation will understand your reluctance to comment. Refuse to get involved in other people's personal squabbles. A

married couple will probably reconcile. Your spiritual values come into clearer focus. A new personal relationship is featured. Your loyalty to your family is tested by unusual circumstances. A relative plays a key role in your romantic happiness.

SAGITTARIUS (22 Nov. - 22 Dec.) - Being informed about world affairs makes you an interesting company. Just be careful not to do all the talking. Look for ways to help a friend or neighbour who is going through a difficult period. Someone you meet at a party this week could help you move closer to a cherished goal. Wear something glamorous and you will make a terrific first impression. An admirer will give you the rush.

CAPRICORN (23 Dec. - 19 Jan.) - Your acting talents get a real workout this week. Others expect you to laugh at their bad jokes. Do so, someone who seems aloof could be painfully shy. Romance will keep you guessing. All eyes are on you and your romantic partner. Remain true to your principles; refuse to do anything you might regret. Focus on the future and what you hope to accomplish.

AQUARIUS (20 Jan. - 18 Feb.) - You could find yourself in a ridiculous situation. Stay calm and you can talk your way out of it. Keep secrets to yourself for a while longer. Your discretion will win widespread admiration. Do not expect to get much work done this week. Others are preoccupied with their own plans. Catch up on your reading and write to a college student. Call an old friend and reminisce.

PISCES (19 Feb. - 20 March) - You attract the spotlight without even trying. Be careful not to miss a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Romance smiles in your direction. Stay on your toes. Get in touch with someone from your past. Forget past mistakes and make a fresh beginning. Be consistent when dealing with children. A friendly but firm manner will work best.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN are likely to be the big men or women on campus. Although they may not be the world's greatest athletes, they are always ready to give their best effort. While they enjoy chess and card games, they are too impulsive to be successful gamblers. These youngsters' trendy clothes has a loving heart and old-fashioned values. No matter how famous or busy these children become, they will always be available to friends and family.

COMICS

calvin and hobbes

